

Adyar, Madras, India,
April 18th, 1913.

My dear Fritz,

The Judge's decision in our great case was a mixed one, as we expected. We were warned that in order to obtain full investigation of the facts, we must risk an adverse judgment on legal points---which, however, could afterwards be reversed on appeal; so the President waived various points on which she might have insisted. The Judge absolutely cleared Krishna from any imputation of crime, saying most emphatically that the alleged abominations had been invented by the father because of his jealousy of me, and that their impossibility was clearly shown. But he said in so many words: "The fact that the man is a liar does not deprive him of his right to his children". (I should have thought that such a lie did.) So he said he was compelled to make an order that the boys should be restored to him, but they should be Wards of Court, in order that it might exercise supervision over them. Of course we cannot accept this, so we have promptly appealed against the decision, and we shall no doubt succeed. But the President is so overjoyed at our overwhelming victory on the facts that it quite overweighs for the moment the legal difficulties. We are getting up a big festivity and feeding a vast crowd of poor to celebrate the vindication of Krishna. As the matter stands, the President is ordered to produce the boys by the end of May---which is of course beyond her power; but Sir Subramania tells us that the judgment is inconsistent with itself and contrary to law, and must inevitably be reversed on appeal. The Appellate Court will not touch the questions of fact, so nothing can interfere with the definite verdict that we have on that point. The Judge, by the way, expressed an opinion that my views on sex questions were immoral and dangerous, which I thought an unnecessary remark! The Hindu newspaper suggests that the Government ought to deport me ~~as~~ from the country as a dangerous person---which would be an amusing end to the controversy, for I suppose there is in the whole of India no more loyal subject of the King than I, and that law was intended for political offenders! However, the Judge decreed that all costs should be borne by the plaintiff, which indicates his private opinion of him pretty clearly.

Yours most affectionately,

G.W. Leadbeater.