

Adyar, Madras, S.

May 1st, 1913.

My dear Fritz,

I have several letters of yours to answer, mostly referring to Mrs. Russak and her various activities. It is evident that you are in a difficult position out there, and that you will require great tact and level-headedness. I feel very much as you feel with regard to orgies of psychism; but we have to remember that other people of a fundamentally different disposition feel absolutely differently, and I think in the Theosophical Society we must maintain the entire right of every member to his freedom of opinion and action. You say that these people who differ from you will not let you alone. There I am entirely with you; you have the right to demand that they shall let you alone. But remember that they have exactly the same right to demand that you shall let them alone. You think that their proceedings will wreck the Society; you may be right; yet if the officials are on their side you cannot possibly interfere. I feel the dangers of uncontrolled psychism as strongly as you can feel them, for I have had bitter experience of them; but I feel still more strongly that we must stand by our leaders, and that we must not on any account cause rupture or hard feeling. No doubt the true work of the Society will suffer from the excesses which you describe, but it is far better that it should so suffer than that we should have any kind of rupture, or even that we should allow unkind feeling to arise among the workers. I think we must clearly understand that there are all sorts of people in the world, and especially that in connexion with religious movements there are always two broad types, which in the Christian Church have developed into the Catholic and the Protestant. The former delights in all sorts of ceremonial, and holds very strongly to hierarchical ideas of absolute submission to authority. The latter is impatient of ceremonial, which it usually regards as waste of time and as coming between the man and his clear vision of higher things, and it is also strongly individual, and somewhat impatient of control, holding very much to intellectuality and common-sense. The ignorant follow-

ers along each of these lines always hate those of opposite opinion, and wish to persecute them; the wiser leaders recognise the real existence of the two tendencies and are quite willing to admit that both have their good points, and should be allowed freedom to work. I myself, for example, am by instinct strongly Catholic; but I have learned the necessity of balancing emotion by intellect and common-sense. I am decidedly a ritualist, but I want my ritual to be the genuine article, and to have a real basis. My earnest advice therefore is: do not quarrel with these people, however extravagant may be their words and actions, but go steadily on doing your own work in your own way, neither saying nor thinking anything uncharitable about those who are trying to serve the Masters, but in a different way. Remember, I have the privilege of knowing Mr. Warrington fairly well, and I feel quite sure that it will be his desire to act with absolute justice, and that he, as leader, will try to utilise all the power for work possessed by all his subordinates, each along his different line; and I also feel sure that he will do what he can to protect the enthusiasts on each side from the attacks of the others, so that all alike may learn tolerance and charity. People who accuse fellow-workers who do not happen to agree with them of being under the domination of black-magicians are simply silly, and no sensible man will pay any attention to what they say.

I regard Mrs. Russak as a most useful worker for our Society; she is, besides, a personal friend of my own, and nothing which I say must be taken^{BS} in the least disloyal to that friendship. I have no doubt that, as you say, she works best when she is in the centre of the stage; but remember that she does work exceedingly well under those conditions, and that she has been of very great help to many people. We must recognise that what does not appeal to us personally may nevertheless have a most beneficial influence over thousands of others. So far as I am aware, Mrs. Russak has never claimed to be an Initiate; and it cannot be too clearly understood that neither pain nor illness is ever in any way caused by or connected with initiation. I can say nothing with regard to her recent illness, nor is it in any way my business to pronounce an opinion upon it; she herself attributes it to further awaken-

ing. of the serpent-fire. That may be so, though I have known no other case in which its arousing was accompanied by such symptoms as are described; but along a line so different from our own many things that are strange to us may happen. I cannot tell whether she is right in claiming that certain Masters stood beside her during her illness; but that is surely entirely her own affair, and a matter that cannot possibly concern us, unless upon such a claim some right of physical domination should be founded, which I think is not the case. The President (to whom I have shown all your letters) has no recollection of the part which she is supposed to have played on that occasion. She tells me that Mrs. Russak submitted to her some sort of plan for training people --probably the same to which you refer; but she is under the impression that the name Occult School was not employed. I think that as members of the E.S. we are bound not to attempt an independent line of approach to the Masters; but is it at all certain that anything of that nature is contemplated?

As to the Temple of the Rosy Cross, I think you will be quite safe in taking it to be exactly as I described it in my answer to that question--the ritualistic side or ceremonial side of the Star movement. Assuredly no one should be pressed to enter it, nor should ~~ld~~ extravagant and unfounded claims be made for it. The President assures me that she herself is its unquestioned head, and that she would never think of admitting to it any who were not absolutely loyal to Alcyone. It is true that the influence of the Lord Gautama was once felt at one of those meetings; but that is not in the least because of any connexion of His with the organisation, but only because Algyone was present on that occasion. It is not correct to say that any special reservoir of spiritual force has been established in connexion with this movement; but of course each of its meetings, when the people are really ~~in~~ earnest, serves as a channel through which higher forces may be poured down, precisely as is the case with an E.S. meeting. I do not doubt that a special reservoir will in due course be arranged for whatever may be the new form of religion which the Christ may decide to found; but all that will be only when He comes.

I quite see that you feel this to be a serious crisis, and you

think that the American Section will injure itself by passing too much under psychic domination. If that is so, I do not see that we can help it, and our duty will still be to stick by the ship and do the very best we can for it. But are you, after all, quite sure of this? May it not be that whatever is undesirable in the temporary enthusiasm may pass away? All enthusiasm is so much motive-force which can be utilised; and even though some of this seems likely to run to waste, may there not, after all, be a residuum of which good use can be made? You are on the other side of the world, and the whole affair is no business of mine; but since you ask my advice I should say decidedly: stay by the affair, help it in any and every way that you can, and trust to your leader to be fair to both sides, and to utilise both sides. The Masters can be served in many ways, and we know that it is ~~Their~~ Their custom to utilise whatever is good in any movement, even though it may be mingled with much that is undesirable.

I cannot ask our President to look over my letter, since she is so full of other business--indeed, at the moment she is away in Madras; but I do not think that I have written anything with which she would not agree. Please remember that the authority of her name is constantly being used for things of which she knows nothing. I want to be quite open and honest and above-board in regard to such advice as I offer; so I should be obliged if you would be so kind as to show this letter to Mr. Warrington (though I had no such idea in my mind when I dictated it) for I should not like him to think that I wrote of him behind his back. If you could also read it to Marjorie and Mrs. Tuttle it would be a blessing, for I have had letters from both of them to much the same effect as yours, and I have not time to answer them separately. So if you can do this for me I will enclose for each of them only a few lines of greeting, and refer them to you for real information.

I am rather amused to hear that you regarded Hotchner as conservative and altogether behind the times in his ideas; because according to his own estimate of himself he is nothing if not up-to-date--indeed, considerably ahead of time--a twenty-first century kind of man, the ~~hair~~ ^{hair} of all the ages and the product of what they ought to be! When he was here he had a great many ideas as to the extension of the book

business, and some of them seemed good enough; at any rate I suggested that he might talk them over with the officials in America, and see what was practicable.

I will, if possible, add the latest legal news. The President is, at the moment, engaged in making an application for what is called a 'stay of execution', which sounds like beheading, but I believe it does not involve anything quite so serious as that. She says that she does not care whether she gets it or not; but I believe it will save a good deal of trouble if she obtains it.

The colours appropriate to the angels of the four quarters are not at all those which you mention (see Light of Asia, which is accurate on these points).

With very much love,

I am ever,

Yours most affectionately,

C.W. Leadbeater.

P.S. The Chief Justice has granted the stay of execution, and has thereby postponed the whole affair until the Courts reopen in July after the vacation. He seems entirely favourable to our view of the case on every point which has yet arisen. The President will consequently leave for Europe on the 17th, and will therefore be able to attend the International Congress at Stockholm in June.