

Theosophical Society,  
Adyar, Madras, S., India,  
January 2, 1913.

My dear Fritz,

The Convention is over, but it is impossible to send any detailed account of it by the mail which is just leaving. I enclose a very brief description for your information, as it will probably be a week or two before a fuller account of it appears in the Adyar Bulletin or The Theosophist. I am also enclosing a report<sup>\*</sup> of the President's four lectures and her speech on the policy of the <sup>Theosophical Society</sup> ~~P. S.~~. Only an abstract of the first lecture is given, but it<sup>is</sup> <sup>^</sup>one which she herself dictated; the other three are reported verbatim. They are atrociously printed, but this happens to be the easiest paper to obtain, which contains a full report, and I hope you will be able to make out the meaning. You will find the descriptive articles distinctly amusing! The four lectures will speedily appear in book form. We have had excellent weather, the temperature being down at 77°, with a strong breeze blowing.

With all heartiest good wishes, I am ever,

Yours most cordially,

C. W. Leadbeater.

*Fletcher has been most useful during the Convention.*

*\* Sent under separate cover, by book post, to the Editor of the American Theosophist.*

*P.S. I think it would be well to print the President's statement on the policy of the Theosophical Society in the Sectional magazines when possible.*



As to legal business, I think you will be wise to expect no news until you actually hear it, for the delays seem interminable. In each case the object of our opponents is to delay everything as long as possible, because they want to postpone inevitable defeat, and also they have a general impression that they can cause annoyance and loss to the President by procrastination. Still, it is fair to add that some portion of the delay cannot fairly be charged to them, as the Court is really much overcrowded with business, and all other cases are behindhand as well as ours. In fact, the officials tell us that they are really making special efforts for us. The actual state of affairs at the moment is that a certain long and wearisome case about a timberyard is in front of ours and is likely to employ the High Court up to the Easter holidays. A hope is held out to us (but it seems useless to hope; we are getting tired of trying it) that the timberyard people require a postponement, and if they do we shall slip in in front of them; but I should advise you not to calculate upon that! I suppose that it is quite impossible for you in America to realise the utter unscrupulousness of our opponents; there is no falsehood which they will not cheerfully utter, and no depth of wickedness to which they are not eager to descend. We have four clear cases of attempted bribery and intimidation of servants, and already one hired bravo has been arrested on our grounds.

A curious instance of the general treachery has just occurred. In the civil suit (which is the principal case) each party has the right upon application to be allowed to examine and copy the documents upon which the other side relies. Under this rule the solicitor for our opponents copied a quantity of private letters from me to the President. His client, the wicked old father, asked his lawyer to let him read these. The lawyer (or rather his clerks) carelessly allowed this, and the old scoundrel at once placed these documents in the hands of the other lawyer, who is defending Dr. Nair and the Hindu in the libel suit which Mrs. Besant is bringing



against them. This places the original lawyer in a very dangerous position and as soon as he heard of it, he at once descended upon these people and made a tremendous row, claiming his documents back again. He has got them; but meanwhile they have been copied, and an attempt was made to use them in the Police Court case against Dr. Nair. Mrs. Besant's counsel at once protested; and if the matter becomes public, our opponents counsel will probably be disbarred. He came down here last Sunday in a great state of mind to apologise to the President and to ask her to help him in trying to keep the thing quiet. She accepted his apology and of course will not bring the matter officially to the notice of the High Court judge; but nevertheless it may be impossible to prevent its becoming known. However, all this is good for us, as conclusively showing the utter unreliability of these people.

Through all this maze of filth and treachery, the President moves like a being from another world, surprising all these brutes by her chivalry and magnanimity. It is amusing to see how constantly they overreach themselves, because they cannot believe that she is telling the truth and acting fairly by them. Perhaps that is not to be wondered at, as of course it is an absolutely new ~~expe~~<sup>a</sup> ~~rience~~ to them, and <sup>a</sup> ~~thing~~ that they have never seen before.

There is nothing to report that can be called real progress. The President's cross-examination is practically closed in the Nair case, but they are trying to delay it until after the civil suit in the High Court, in the hope that something damaging against her may come out in that of which they can perhaps make a point. We know that there is no such thing, but of course they always hope to be able to distort something so that they can make capital of it.