

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
ADYAR, MADRAS 5,
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My dear Fritz,

I have four letters from you to answer this week, those of December 26th, January 1st and January 3rd, besides one of December 28th from San Diego and three cards from La Jolla. I note your heroic intention of making a journey into Lower California, and I hope you will get back safe and sound from those wild regions. I have no doubt that you will have adventures, and that the account of them (with illustrations) will make interesting matter for The Theosophist---more especially if you can contrive to visit Uxmal and the other ruins in Yucatan. I do not think that you will find anything of special interest in Lower California; its interest lies rather in the future than in the past; but certainly there are remarkable ruins in Yucatan, and photographs and descriptions of those would be most welcome. I am afraid that I have not at all the detailed information about the location of the colony for which you ask; but it is possible that I may acquire at any rate more than I possess now, and if I do I will share it with you.

I wish I could have been with you at San Diego and La Jolla, for I should much like to see those places again. I have no doubt that everything has changed; in America everything does change very rapidly, and La Jolla especially was so beautifully situated that it was quite certain to grow in public favour. The change of name from Tintagel to Frances is disgusting and absolutely unromantic. I am glad to hear of Mr. Philip Thomson again, and I have no doubt that you did him great good. Please reciprocate on my behalf his affectionate greetings, and tell him that I have never forgotten him. As to his

blocks (but this is not for conveyance to him !) I have never quite been able to understand them, nor have I ever known all that he meant by his 'I,-You Company', with its curious appeals and its very offensive stationery. I quite believe that there is an explanation of many things to be obtained along the lines of crystallisation and of solid geometry generally; whether he was on the track of it I do not know, though I think it not impossible; but whether there is any particular practical benefit to be derived from that line of study I feel to be somewhat doubtful; at any rate, if there is such benefit to be had, I have not yet seen it.

You speak of 'going out after' Mrs. Tingley; I am ~~fully~~ ^{thoroughly} averse to all legal proceedings upon principle, and I think that they very rarely eventuate in poetic justice, but I do feel that in this case the Tingley woman has altogether passed the bounds of forbearance, and if her nefarious career of poisonous slander can be stopped by legal proceedings, it may possibly be worth while breaking through one's ordinary rules in order to produce so desirable a consummation. But I think that before you strike at her you ought to be as certain of success as is humanly possible; because a legal attempt of this kind which failed would not only make us ridiculous, but would act as an advertisement for her scurrility. I believe that when the President comes over to America she means to discuss this matter with Mr. Warrington; but at the same time your idea of collecting all possible evidence against her is distinctly a good one.

Frankly, I do not think quite so well of your chivalrous attempt to put right all that went wrong in the affair of seven years ago. I do not mind telling you my real, interior reason ^{for} feeling in that way; but you will see at once that it is not a reason that could ever

be offered to the world, or indeed even mentioned outside an extremely limited circle. You may or may not know that the President and I took a certain occult step together in the spring of the year 1907. Now, the preparation for this step involves a great deal of unpleasantness in various ways, and among others it would seem that the candidate is always accused wrongfully and subjected to public obloquy. In the Gospel story the crucifixion and its attendant indignities and sufferings are supposed to typify this; and if you will read the quotations which I give on page 49, vol. i of The Inner Life (American edition) from the Flemish mystic Ruysbroek and from Madame Blavatsky, you will see that all that happened to me was nothing more than might have been expected, and the outcome of it was eminently and entirely satisfactory for me. Now since that was the real reason of it all, I do not myself believe that it will ever be possible to clear the matter up in the ordinary way; and I am not even sure that it would be desirable to do so! Please remember that in all ~~in all~~ historical cases of which we have any record the stigma has never been removed from the candidate. It is still reported of Pythagoras that he was 'a corrupter of boys'; it is still on record against Bacon that he was 'the meanest of mankind', even though they recognise in the same breath that he was the wisest and the greatest; neither Cagliostro nor Madame Blavatsky were ever cleared publicly of the charges of fraud and deception brought against them; our President herself still lies under the reproach that an English Court officially pronounced her unfit to have the guardianship of her own children, even though at the same time they proclaimed that there was nothing against her character; and even Jesus himself was certainly not reinstated by the public opinion of his time, whatever people may think now of all the wild charges that were brought against Him. So you will understand that

while I thoroughly appreciate the kindly friendship which induces you to want to put all these things right publicly, I yet feel inside that you are foredoomed to failure.

As to that horrible cipher letter, I think that I have already told you all that I know of the matter. I certainly did not write the thing in the form in which it at present appears, and I equally certainly never used the phrases attributed to me in the sense which is there put upon them. I have never seen the original, but I did see a written copy made by Monsieur Charles Blech from one that was shown to him by (I think) Mrs. Russak. So far as I remember the document it was divided into two parts, the first part referring to some psychic experiences, and the second to sexual difficulties. The first part corresponds with a sort of half-recollection that I have of a story of psychic experiences told to me by Howard Maguire; and my impression is that I did write to him very much what the first part of the 'cipher letter' contains. The second half contains such advice as I think I might have given, though I do not definitely remember giving it; but the closing phrases are not in the least in my style, and, as I have already said, I am quite sure that I did not use them in the sense now attributed to them, though I may, for anything that I know, have employed the phrase about 'sensation' with regard to some psychic experience; though of that also I have no actual recollection. I have always been given to understand that the letter was supposed to be addressed to Howard; but perhaps I assumed that because I knew that it was to him that I had written in connection with the psychic experience. I think, however, that I remember hearing at the time something about the attitude ~~of~~ taken with regard to it by his father and mother; and altogether I have very little doubt that he was the recipient. If so, that finally disposes of the idea that Fullerton could have written it, for I do not

think that he knew the boy. Nor can I conceive of any reason why he should have written it even if he had known him, and the advice on psychical matters is not such as he would be likely to give. I am not casting any doubt on the value of the psychic impressions either of your sister or of Mrs. Tuttle; but from what I know about such things I should think it not impossible that the eager use which Fullerton made of the document might be quite sufficient to guide their intuitions towards him and make them regard him as its author. I cannot believe that he had anything to do with it; but if you find evidence suggesting that, I think the simplest plan would be to ask him directly, for I believe that now he would tell us the truth on such a matter. The President told me long ago that the alleged original document had been shown to her; that it was typewritten, without address, date or signature; but that one short word, which had apparently been omitted in typing, was inserted in handwriting that looked like mine. I also heard at the time that Chidester, when it was shown to him, identified the paper as some which (I think) he had given to me, and expressed the opinion that the typing was like that of my Blickensderfer. I have really never troubled to form much of a theory for myself; but I know that two possibilities occurred to me at the time: (1) that the document might be an absolute forgery, inserted phenomenally in one of my letters as it passed through the post (this hypothesis, of course, requires the presence of people of the black magician type); (2) that a document really written by me might have been found as stated, and skilfully copied with a transposition of some sentences (and possibly the insertion of others) so as to give to them an entirely different meaning from that which they really bore. The President also told me that she had seen an answer, written by the boy to me (but never posted) in which he asked the meaning of that

remarkable phrase about 'sensation'. All this, I think, makes it almost absolutely certain that the letter was received by Howard, and that he took it as a genuine document; though if it was, as alleged, picked up on the floor of his bed-room, and afterwards shown to him, I presume that he could not be certain that it had not in the meantime been recopied or changed in some way. As I told you, my own private opinion is that we shall never succeed in entirely clearing up these matters, but only in stirring up all over again the unpleasant mud which befouled our Theosophical waters so terribly at the time.

However, if you have made up your minds to attack Mrs. Tingley, I should think that the wisest and safest plan would be simply to go for her on the incontrovertible ground of malicious libel, very widely circulated with the obvious intention to injure both financially and in reputation. Without touching the question of the truth or falsity of the original accusations made against me, it ought to be easily possible to convict her of malicious action, which is all that is needed to secure a verdict. There is a legal axiom, you know, 'the greater the truth, the greater the libel'. Also, most of her circulars which I have seen do not touch the question of the cipher letter, but claim that I had twice confessed to immoral conduct, which is a direct and absolute falsehood, and can easily be proved to be so, since they cannot produce the confessions.

I am much interested in your American Theosophist and in your plans for its future. I think it will certainly be a good and interesting magazine and will do much to spread Theosophy, though I suppose it will finally destroy any circulation that the original Theosophist at present has in America! Still it is quite right and proper that America should have a magazine of its own; and if you can

only get for it ^{the} ~~A~~ circulation which a periodical of that sort ought to have in America, I am sure that it will enormously increase both our membership and the sale of our literature, and so far more than compensate for possible losses in another direction.

Mr. Prime is at present away on a lecturing tour, but your letter will be sent to him.

As the news this week will probably come in all at the last moment, I will put it on a separate slip, so that it can be carboned and inserted in various letters. The telegrams tell us that it is all good.

With very much love,

I am, ever,

Yours most affectionately,

G. W. Leadbeater.

P.S.-- Mrs. Besant has returned from her travelling Commission in a thoroughly jubilant frame of mind. She says that the plaintiff's witnesses have been most useful to her, and she has been able to acquire from them a great deal of exceedingly valuable evidence that she could not otherwise have obtained. She has clear evidence of a conspiracy to manufacture a false story at Benares, and she has been surprised at the way in which everything has worked in her favour, even in quite unexpected ways. Today her suit against Dr. Nair* for defamation of character is to come on; there will probably be nothing but a formal opening, but if there is any news worth giving I will add a line.

Two witnesses examined - case postponed until 17th; all well so far.*