

February-March, 1950
Johannesburg, S. Africa

My dear Friends:

I am still in the Transvaal. One of the most wonderful things that ever happened occurred on December 16th, here. For on that day, Dingaan's Day, the impressive and enduring Monument to the memory of the Voortrekkers was dedicated and opened amidst scenes of surpassing dignity and vastness. A quarter of a million people gathered for it from all parts of the Union, and most of them were dressed in the ancient costumes of the old pioneers, poke bonnets, and wide hats decorated with ostrich feathers for the men. For four days they congregated round the Monument, camping out in tents lent by the military. The great Day of the Dedication began with a salute of twenty-one guns at dawn, and after speeches by the Minister for Finance, the Prime Minister, and an English Judge, the tremendous gathering awaited in utter silence the moment of midday when through an opening in the roof the sun would create a circle of light upon the sarcophagus in the Hall of Heroes, upon which were inscribed the words: "On Vir Jou, Suid-Afrika" meaning "We for you, South-Africa." I felt such a blaze of light go out through the land where all were also listening in and every Church bell ringing, that I am sure life will never be the same again. I put it to myself like this: "Today a nation, a great nation, was born." General Smuts closed the great occasion.

To return to our subjects of discussion. For sometime I have been feeling that there is one tremendous necessity, the growth in the world of spiritual power. Let me here quote the words of the late Dr. Alexis Carrel to Glenn Clark: "The world is facing an awful crisis. The very future of humanity is at stake. Mankind can be saved only by a group of men who are so centred in God at the Source that their wisdom is a part of the All-Wisdom, and therefore so conscious of the Cosmos and so integrated at the Centre that they will be able to think clearly in many fields and not be limited to one field alone. Such a group of men, if they could find each other out and share their wisdom, might be able to chart a course that could save the world." And he asked Glenn Clark: "Can you help find such men?"

Glenn Clark found him the great negro scientist, Dr. George Washington Carver as well as the great artist, Walter Russel, I think is his name. I can think of others: Gerald Heard, the scientist, Aldous Huxley, Rom Landau, Paul Brunton, writers and journalists, Alan Watts and Rufus Jones, ministers, and two women, now passed over, Dr. Maude Royden and Evelyn Underhill. Evelyn Underhill's first book, Mysticism, has become a world classic. It is worthwhile reading two little booklets written by Glenn Clark: "The man who tapped the secrets of the Universe" about Walter Russel, and "The man who talked to flowers" about Dr. Carver. I can just now think of yet another, J. Middleton Murry, whose book entitled, "God" is a revelation to many.

Now why should we not all set out on the path to the grand way of helping our fellow-men by drawing nearer to the Source of all wisdom, genius, love and power? It is done by years of silent meditation and beautiful living in the service of men. As H. P. B. put it: "Will that you become wise and illuminated and strong." We all desire happiness, wisdom, power to help. There is only one Source of them in the true sense, the Centre of Life, Himself. All genius means sporadic glimpses of the Divine and Archetypal worlds. The unawakened genius lies in us all. Spirituality means the perception of the unity and the divinity of all life, and the incipient saint is in every one of us. The power to help, the ability to understand and to achieve lies also deep within us, but that heroic soul so often remains for incarnations untouched within us. It is within that we

must go, not seek only without. Books and other people can aid us in the search. If our hearts are rightly orientated the heavenly powers will guide us to the right books and the right contacts. But always the way is within, and the way is straight to God Who is at once the Source and the Goal of our being. Goodwill without wisdom can sometimes do more harm than good; love without intelligence wreak moral harm. Let me quote H. P. B. again: "As soon as he begins to understand what a friend and a teacher pain can be, the Theosophist stands appalled before the mysterious problem of human life, and though he may long to do good works, equally dreads to do them wrongly until he himself has acquired greater power and knowledge. The ignorant doing of good works may be vitally injurious, as all but those who are blind in their love of benevolence are compelled to acknowledge." Let us gain wisdom. But how? Only by patient, deep thought, silent and humble aspiration, patient experience, kind and steady service of all life. Again, H. P. B.: "He who would profit by the wisdom of the Universal Mind, has to reach it through the whole of humanity without distinction of race, complexion, religion or social status. It is altruism, not ego-ism, even in its most legal and noble conception, that can lead the unit to merge its little self in the Universal Selves. It is to these needs and to this work that the true disciple of true Occultism has to devote himself, if he would obtain Theosophy, Divine Wisdom and Knowledge."

In other Letters I will continue this theme. Meanwhile let us all start out, if we have never thought of it before. It does not matter in the least where we stand in evolution, or what our circumstances are. There is only one road and we can all tread it. If we begin now, it will carry on into the next incarnation with greater opportunities. When do we begin? Now here, this minute, and exactly as we are. Are we ignorant, and foolish and inexperienced? God, and the Master Who is one with that Life, will create in us a new personality, a wiser sonship. If only we will let Him do it. Do not let us try to make ourselves too industriously. Let Life which is God, do it more wisely. Every minute, every day, as the years go by, we may be treading it and weaving the golden threads which draw us ever nearer. However, small we feel ourselves to be, we have begun if we have rightly resolved. Said the Prophet Mohammad: "Let a man be true to his intention and his efforts to fulfil them, and the point is gained whether he succeed or not." And let us ever remember the heavenly words of the great Avatar, Sri Krishna: "Even if the most sinful worship Me, with undivided heart, he too, must be accounted righteous, for he hath rightly resolved."

Only one thing matters, the Life and Light and Love of the universe. We do not matter except when that Light begins to shine through us. It can shine through everyone in some degree. Let it shine. We cannot make it shine, but we can get ready the conditions which will allow that to be possible. Not all at once, perhaps to begin with for a few moments at a time. We have the right to so look for we are all the undeveloped sons of the Most High. He draws us ever nearer when we turn our hearts in His direction. "Draw nigh unto God, and He will draw nigh unto you," wrote St. James.

Your ever affectionate friend,

CLARA CODD

P.W. Thank you all for your letters and cards and lovely Xmas wishes. Read Talbot Mundy's "I say Sunrise."

So many of you have asked me whether you may show or read any part of the Letters to others. By all means make what use you wish of what I write. I would only like you not to mention the inner bond that unites us all. Call it, if you like, a "correspondence group."
mp. C.C.