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Next address: Adyar, Madras 20, India
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My dear Friends,

Next week I must set sail for India, so my short stay in the country of my birth is drawing to a close. I came over from America on the "Queen Mary". I have travelled twice on her sister ship, the "Queen Elizabeth", but this was my first journey on the "Queen Mary." There were five of us travelling together: Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Miss Caroline Tess, America's recent National Secretary, Mrs. Melba Kennedy, a sister of Miss Elithe Nisewanger, and myself. That made a very nice little party, and we all sat together for meals. We found that there was always a special vegetarian dish on the menu -- another sign of the times! And very good they were too. I won a prize on board, which is a thing I have never done before. It was for solving a kind of puzzle revolving round the passenger list of names. I am sure I would not have won without Mr. Cook's help. So I became the possessor of a pretty little jam jar and butter dish. The next day, my travelling companion, Miss Tess, won a similar prize. In the evenings everyone played "Bingo." I wonder if all my readers know what that is? There is no skill in it whatever. It is purely a gambling game. On the last day a nice old gentleman won the collective prize of about £30. The voyage is very short, only five days, stopping at Cherbourg on the way. Cherbourg has recovered. The last time I saw it, ten years ago, it was devastated by bombs.

I am very interested in what is happening all over the world. I remember Dr. Besant telling us that we should try, when we read the newspapers, to discern the Plan of the Adept Hierarchy materializing in the world. And I believe the astrologers say that this coming year of 1960, when the sun enters the sign of Aquarius, will be a wonder year. Here's hoping! I hope, as everybody else does too, that the meeting of the great leaders of the nations will mean peace and co-operation for the world. I have often wondered about the growth of Communism. There must be some reason why it has attained such phenomenal proportions. I remember too that Dr. Besant told us that the Adepts use one evil force to counteract another, so as to bring about an equalization for the good of the world. Perhaps one tyranny corrects another. And to be fair I think myself that Russia has done marvels for her own people. The other day some one put the difference between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. to me like this. In the U.S.A. everything is done for the individual, for his comfort and his pleasure. But not so much for men in the mass. Schools, colleges, asylums, hospitals, etc. are very often understaffed and underpaid. In Russia the opposite is the case. The individual does not count so much but all corporate bodies are well officered and paid. According to John Gunther, whose book "Inside Russia" I found quite enthralling, no school class numbers more than 17 pupils. Teachers, doctors, and professors are highly paid and trained.

I also read in America two books on the East by two experienced and discerning reporters. Here are their conclusions. It may interest you all if I quote them. William Patterson, in the "Saturday Review of Literature" says:

1. Most people in Asia will go to bed hungry tonight.
2. Most people in Asia cannot read or write.
3. Most people in Asia live in grinding poverty.
4. Most people in Asia have never seen a doctor.
5. Most people in Asia have never heard of democracy.
6. Most people in Asia have never known civil liberties.
7. Most people in Asia believe anything different would be better than what they have, and they are determined to get it.
8. Most people in Asia believe that free enterprise means the freedom of Western colonial powers to exploit Asians.
9. Most people in Asia distrust people with white skins.
10. Most people in Asia are determined never again to be ruled by foreigners.

James Michener, in "The Voice of Asia," writes "Basic Facts for Americans":

1. Asia is the foremost land mass in the world and comprises the largest assembly of people.
2. Asia plus Europe and Africa, completely encircle the United States.
3. Asia is barely able to feed its people.
4. Population pressures will probably become increasingly severe.
5. Religion is a prime moving force in Asia.
6. Much of Asia is more than 90% illiterate.
7. Therefore of necessity Asia is an oligarchy.
8. For the present Asia must concern itself with convincing a relatively few key Asians that it is in their countries' interest to remain friends with us.
9. For the present it is the cities of Asia, not the countryside, that are important.
10. Sooner or later the people of Asia will govern themselves.

Therefore he writes:

1. Let us keep our clear wits about us: Asia is not a continent of barbarian hordes or inscrutable evil.
2. Let us apply our keenest brains to the problems of Asia.
3. Let us banish from our minds the common clichés about Asia.
4. Let us not think that we can abandon Asia.
5. Let us treat disappointment with Patience and persistence.
6. Let us not scorn our European allies in Asia.
7. As we practice the wisdom of forbearance let us not be beguiled into appeasement.
8. Let us remember our numerous friends in Asia.
9. Let us proclaim that we are a democracy who won our independence through revolting against our own alien masters.

Well, friends, this does not sound very spiritual but it really is, for our Masters are intensely interested in all that conduces to human happiness and welfare. As the Master M. long ago said to Dr. Besant, "The vast mass of men who in past ages have been slaves, are now reaching a point in their evolution when their spiritual nature can begin rapidly to unfold, but this is held up and frustrated by the inequality and uncertainty of life." "Therefore," He said, "we have decided that this must begin to leave the world within the next 30 years." And it is beginning to leave the world. There are two evils on the way out for ever in the life of this planet -- war, on its other side, poverty. Welfare States are fore-ordained. H.P.B. once said that one sign of growing spirituality was the growth of the spirit of responsibility. The spiritual man is always his "brother's keeper" on all planes of being.

Most of us will not see this new spirit in full tide all over the world during this life, but we surely will in the next. I love the wonderful poetry of the Scriptures. The day is approaching when the prophecy of Isaiah will come true: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain for the knowledge of God will cover the earth like the waters cover the sea."

Your affectionate friend,

Clara Codd

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