

My dear Friends,

Here I am once more in the great United States, and so happy to meet so many old friends once more. I seem to have arrived at the very right moment, for all the azaleas and dog-wood trees are in full bloom and the grass and trees are so fresh and green. It is certainly America the beautiful! The "Queen Elizabeth" drew into New York very late at night, and we had to wait two and a half hours before we could get all my luggage off. The next day I spoke at the New York Lodge and the day after was spent at Bennett College visiting my niece and her husband from Hungary. Then I came on to Baltimore where I am now staying with my very dear old friends, Dr. and Mrs. DeHoff. Tomorrow I shall be off to New Orleans where I shall be spending a little time with another old friend, Mrs. Lois Burns. I have also visited the Washington and Philadelphia Lodges, and at all we have had a really good time.

America has the most wonderful homes and shops and roads. Surely it must be one of the most prosperous countries in the world. When I think of England it almost looks like a nice little village! All the same I noticed, after ten years absence, a great change in my native country. The "welfare state" has come to stay, and I am glad. One does not see any more starving children and out-of-work men. And the women have come up into everything too. Everywhere there are women bus-conductors and women railway officials. One woman bus-conductor told me that she had been on the same bus for seventeen years. I noticed too a number of West Indians who had found work amongst us.

Some Americans have asked me whether I think that England is on the way out? No, I do not think so. Empires are out of date. The revolt of Asia has killed them. But what was once called the British Empire is now turning into the first utterly free federation of nations the world has ever seen. Presently other nations will follow suit, and then will one day be born the "parliament of nations and the federation of the world." I have not the slightest doubt that in the dawning new age both war and poverty will become outlawed, and will cease to exist for the remaining life of this planet. I think I have mentioned before that a long time ago the Master Hilarion told Dr. Besant that the Hierarchy would not allow the power in the atom to be unveiled until the threat of war had passed. It has now been discovered, so I presume that in the long sight of the Master, war is doomed for evermore. And so is poverty. War and poverty are both crimes. I believe with John Ruskin that extreme riches cannot exist at one end of the social scale except at the price of extreme poverty at the other. The Master M. once told Dr. Besant that the spiritual evolution of the race was hindered and frustrated by the uncertainty and poverty of life. So I can see clearly why these evils must now slowly but surely disappear. Slowly but surely, because the Master K.H. once warned Mr. Sinnett that the world's prejudices are not to be conquered in a rush. He writes: "We never force the pace, either with the individual or the race, for to force the pace means to create monsters." I remember Dr. Besant talking to us about revolution. She said that revolution means that that which is underneath comes to the top and always leaves a nasty aftermath. Evolution, though slower, is preferable, because it does not leave bitterness and hate behind. The best revolution begins with ourselves. What we do, with ourselves and the influence we spread in our own immediate circle. The spread of ideas rules the world. The Master wrote: "Ideas rule the world, and as men's minds receive new ideas the world will advance, mighty revolutions will spring from them."

That is why He inspired the foundation of the T.S. And why He asked us to help Him. He writes too: "For countless generations hath the adept builded a fane of imperishable rocks, a giant tower of INFINITE THOUGHT, emerging at the end of every

cycle, to invite the elect of mankind to co-operate with him and help in his turn to enlighten superstitious man. And we will go on with that periodical work of ours until the day when the foundation of a new continent of thought is so firmly built that no amount of superstition and ignorance, guided by the Brethren of the Shadow, will be found to prevail."

Always They have the happiness and welfare of mankind in Their thoughts. And so must we who aspire to serve Them. If I quote the Master K.H. again: "Our Society is not a mere intellectual school for occultism. The moral and spiritual sufferings of the world need help and cure." And so also H.P.B. writes: "Seeker after Truth, with the faith of a little child and the will of an initiate, give of your store to him who hath not wherewithal to comfort him on his journey." Does not The Voice of the Silence tell us the same truth? "Point out the Way - however dimly and lost among the host - as does the evening star to those who tread their path in darkness.... Give light and comfort to the toiling pilgrim, and seek out him who knows still less than thou."

Must we therefore engage in some form of political or social service? Here again is what H.P.B. writes upon that subject. "True evolution teaches us that by altering the surroundings of an organism we can alter and improve the organism, and in the strictest sense this is true with regard to man. Every Theosophist therefore is bound to do his utmost to help on by all means in his power every wise and well-considered social effort which has for its object the amelioration of the conditions of the poor. Such efforts should be made with a view to their ultimate social emancipation, or the development of the sense of duty in those who so often now neglect it in nearly every relation of life.... In every conceivable case he himself must be a centre of spiritual action, and from him and from his own daily individual life must radiate those higher spiritual forces which alone can regenerate his fellow-men. Any failure on his part to respond to the highest within him retards not only himself but all, on their progressive march."

I remember once hearing Dr. Besant say that human suffering should be diminished in the vicinity of every Lodge, and that we should all be known as people who were ready and eager to help in every civic and national effort for the betterment of humanity. I think I will quote some more sayings of the Master K.H. He writes: "Humanity in the mass has a paramount claim upon us. Universal brotherhood is the only secure foundation for universal morality. It is the aspiration of every true adept." And again: "The only object to be striven for is the amelioration of the condition of man by the spread of truth suited to the various stages of his development and that of the country he inhabits and belongs to."

He used to call us "you brave soldiers of a forlorn hope." I don't think it is such a forlorn hope in these wonderful days.

And Dr. Annie Besant said that "those who enter the shorter pathway (the Secret Path of the Voice of the Silence) must enter it through a gate on which "Service of Man' is shining in golden letters."

Your affectionate friend,

Clara Codd

Also she adds, "Thank you all so very much for that cheque!" -- \$40.00 that we sent her in May.

R.D.