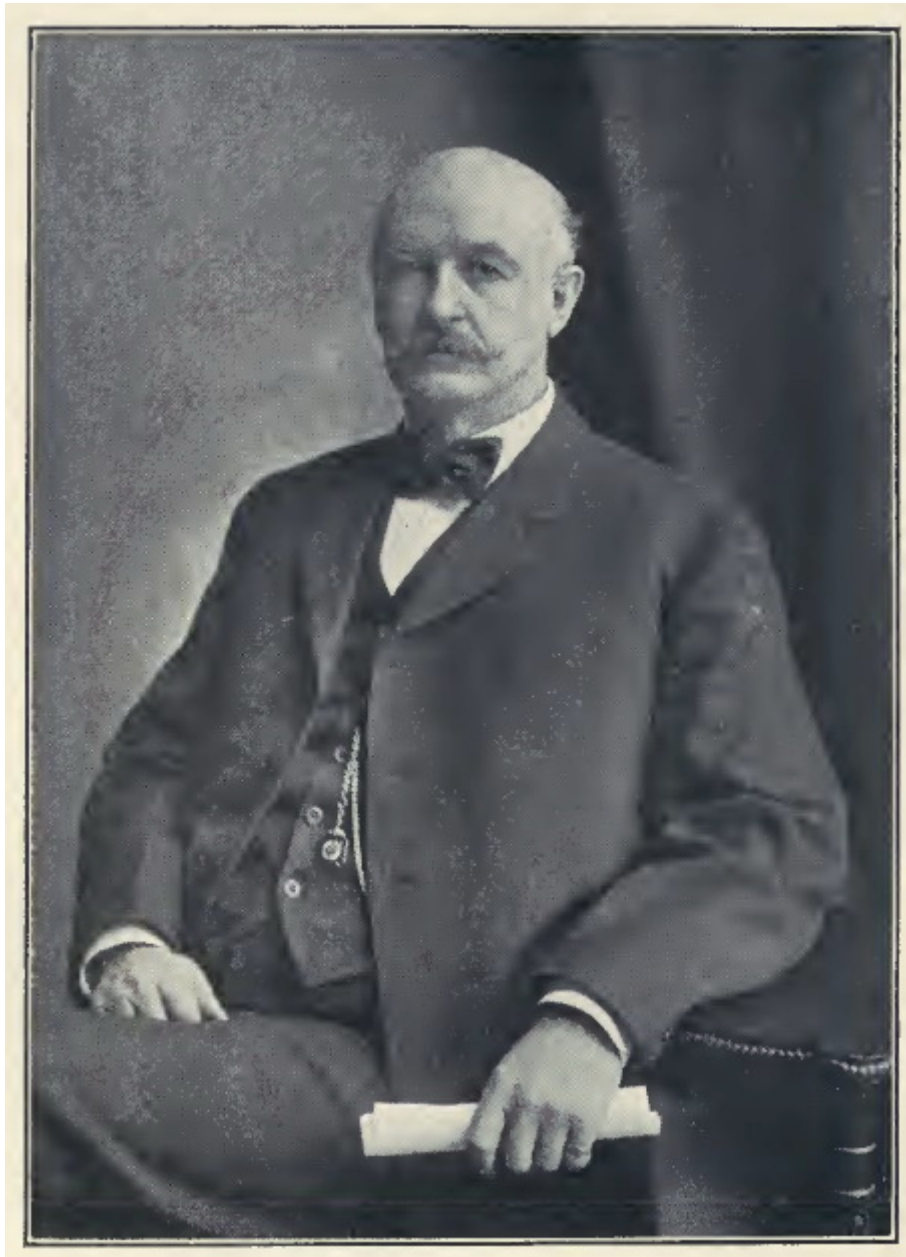


War Letters from the Living Dead Man

Written down by
Elsa Barker.

With an introduction.

New York
Mitchell Kennerley.
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David Patterson Hatch

*Born Dresden, Maine, November 22, 1846
Died Los Angeles, California, February 21, 1912*

INTRODUCTION

In the Spring of 1914 there was published in London and New York a book of mine called "Letters From a Living Dead Man," being automatic writings from an American Judge and teacher of philosophy who had been known to his intimate friends as "X."

There were circumstances connected with the writing of that book, explained in some detail in the Introduction, which made any other hypothesis than that of genuine communication from the other world seem untenable to me. It began, for instance, some days before I knew in Paris that my friend had died on the Pacific coast of America.

In that first book of "X" I did not state who the writer was, not feeling at liberty to do so without the consent of his family; but in the Summer of 1914, while I was still living in Europe, a long interview with Mr. Bruce Hatch appeared in the New York Sunday World, in which he expressed the conviction that the "Letters" were genuine communications from his father, the late Judge David P. Hatch, of Los Angeles, California.

For the benefit of those who have not read the former book, I wish to say that "X" was not an ordinary man. He came nearer than any other Occidental of my acquaintance to that mastery of self and of life which has been called Adeptship.

After the "Letters" were finished in 1913, during a period of about two years I was conscious of the presence of "X" only on two or three occasions, when he wrote some brief advice in regard to my personal affairs.

On the fourth of February, 1915, in New York, I was suddenly made aware one day that "X" stood in the room and wished to write; but as always before, with one or two exceptions, I had not the remotest idea what he was going to say. He wrote as follows:

"When I come back and tell you the story of this war, as seen from the other side, you will know more than all the Chancelleries of the nations."

This letter I confided to two friends who had been much interested in the former book, Mr. and Mrs. Vance Thompson; and it was arranged, with the cordial consent of "X," that they should sit with me about once a week, to make a better "focus." Their loyal faith was a great support to me during the first half of a trying labor.

The writing was not confined to the days when we three sat together; but about a third of the first half of the book was written in the presence and in the house of Mr. and Mrs. Thompson. Then they went to California, and I continued the work alone.

It may be of interest to some readers if I describe the process of this writing, which has changed gradually from a violent and mechanical seizure of the hand from the outside, as in the beginning of the first book, to a quiet impression on the mind within.

If the reader will imagine a well-known friend of vivid personality present with him, then subtract from that impression the seeing of the physical eye, leaving only the subtle vibration of the actual thinking and feeling presence, then add the indescribable "inner sight," he may begin to realize how I know that "X" is in the room.

It is probable that Helen Keller knows when her friends are near her, and can tell one from the other, though she is deaf and blind.

When made aware of the presence of "X," I take a pencil and a notebook, as any other amanuensis would, and by an effort of will, now easy from long practice, I still the activity of my objective mind, until there is no thought or shadow of a thought in it. Then into the brain itself come the words, which flow out without conscious effort at the point of the pencil. It is exactly as if I heard the dictation with a single auditory instrument, like a small and very sensitive sphere, in the centre of the brain.

I never know at the beginning of a sentence how it will end. I never know whether the sentence I am writing will be the last or if two thousand words will follow it. I simply write on, in a state of voluntary negativity, until the impression of personality described above leaves suddenly. Then no more words come. The writing is at an end for that time.

The question will naturally arise in the mind of the skeptical reader (it has in mine), whether my own subconscious mind has not itself dictated the following "War Letters from the Living Dead Man," in the attempt to explain a world tragedy which would have seemed impossible two years ago.

But from my long experience in writing for "X," and from the fact that during two years I had not written for him except on two or three unimportant occasions, though often thinking of him, and from my acquired habit of minute observation of supernormal phenomena, I now feel safe in assuming that I know the difference between the actual presence of "X" and my own imagination of him, my reminiscence of him, or even the suggestion of his presence from another's mind.

No person who had had even a minute fraction of my occult experience could be more coldly critical of that experience than I am. I freely welcome every logical argument against the belief that these letters are what they purport to be; but placing those arguments in opposition to the evidence which I have of the genuineness of them, the affirmations outweigh the denials, and I accept them.

This evidence is too complex and much of it too personal to be even outlined here; but the Letter XXXVI, written one hour after the sinking of the Lusitania and nine hours before I knew of it, is merely one incident out of dozens. Also it may be considered at least an interesting coincidence that at the very time I began writing this second book, three occult students, in different countries, wrote me that they felt that "X" had come back and would write again through my hand. Since then several other persons have so expressed themselves by word or pen.

Many of the events of this war I myself have seen “astrally” at the time of their occurrence. I was a wide-awake astral participant in the first action in which the British army was engaged on the Continent, and related the experience to a British officer in England before it was reported there, my narrative being verified the following day by a French newspaper brought over from Paris by a friend.

I saw in New York the shelling of Scarborough at the hour when it occurred, and related the incident to a friend some hours before it was reported in the newspapers; though I did not know the name of the English coast town where I had seen the assault.

Nevertheless, I cannot read what is in the mind of “X” even when I am conscious that he is actually present in the room. I know only what he dictates, and have no idea how much or how little he knows. He has stated in one of the letters that he should tell me only what his judgment approved from time to time.

There is one point where I myself do not quite follow “X.” Sometimes when he says that the German people are so and so, had I been writing I should have said the Prussians. I have many German friends, and I cannot hold them individually accountable for the awful conditions into which their government has plunged the world.

I must emphasize that I do not assume personal responsibility for what “X” writes, but merely record his words.

It did not occur to me until several days after his last letter was written, on July 28th, that he had finished the war book exactly one year from the date of the first declaration of war, that of Austria against Serbia, and on the very day when the Pope sent out his great appeal for peace.

In his former writing, which began more than three years ago, “X” requested that I should never summon him, and later advised me not to ask questions. I have therefore generally refrained from doing either; though the temptation has often been great to ask him as to the final issue of this war by which I have been so profoundly affected. But I knew that such questioning might stimulate the action of my own objective mind and becloud my receptivity. I have recently shrunk from seeking for such answers even in my hypnogogic visions, lest I should see something which would make me less negative in the reception of these letters.

This situation seems to have cured me forever of curiosity; it has made me feel detached as a comet and almost as lonely, and strong enough to be willing to remain so. But, by a strange paradox, as my hatred for the brutalities of this war grew deeper and deeper, my love for all those struggling human souls in every camp grew with it, until I came to feel that each one of all those millions who died and suffered on those battlefields was my brother and my friend. Love is a miracle that touches the brutal facts of life and makes them divine.

In the third letter of this book, dated March 10th, “X” said that the forces of good

had overpowered the forces of evil and that peace would return to the world—though he did not say when. Before I learned of the Lusitania sinking, but one hour after it had actually taken place, he wrote that the demons whom the workers out there had driven back had rallied and returned to the assault, and that he ought to have known that the very Law of Rhythm would drive them forward again after they had generated another supply of energy.

In the light of rhythmic law, that letter is to me the most interesting part of the book. It illustrates what he has said so often, that even the “living dead” do not know everything, and that the reason why they know so much more than we do is because they have a wider vision and a greater fund of data on which to base their conclusions.

In regard to that second onslaught of the powers of darkness, it is perhaps significant that the letter describing his first conversation with the “dark-veiled one” was written next before the Lusitania letter.

Aside from his narrative, two major ideas seem to dominate “X” in this writing: the mystery of good and evil (love and hate), and the brotherhood of man.

Through his soul-challenging exposition of the conflict between good and evil, both in the human heart and in the universe, a man might learn to protect himself against his own evil as well as against the evil outside him.

In pursuit of this end “X” has revealed certain mysteries to which the attention of the common man has not heretofore been effectively called.

That there is an “astral world” permeating and extending beyond the world of dense matter has been stated in Theosophical and other literature; “X” makes his readers realize the fact. The astral world is said to be the world of feeling and desire; and it is through man’s astral, feeling or desire body, made of a tenuous kind of matter invisible to untrained eyes, that he connects with and functions in that world.

Within and beyond this again is said to be the thought world, and the theory is that man has also a thought body through which he contacts with and functions in it. And so on, plane after plane, till man reaches the formless and the universal, in other words pure divinity.

The evil astral beings described by “X” are beings dwelling in the astral world. Some of them have no physical bodies in the material world; others are the more or less independent astral selves of men, which during sleep go here and there in the world invisible to our open eyes. They have been active in this war.

There are also said to be beings of the elements, earth, air, fire and water, who are evolving along a line different from that of man. Some of these are amiable, some are malicious. Much information about these elementals can be found in the writings of Paracelsus. They also have been active in this war.

Other and superior beings work on all three planes, physical, astral and mental, and

in still higher worlds beyond our cognizance. But for the beneficent activity of some of these, mankind would destroy itself or be destroyed.

“X” says that the feelings of hatred and the sufferings engendered by the great war have made the astral world at this time a very unpleasant place of sojourn. The purgatory of the Roman Catholics is the same thing as the place of post-mortem trial described by “X”. The Church has great knowledge.

Good and evil may be called opposite and complementary forces, one working in harmony with the Law of the Universe (otherwise called the will of God), the other working disharmoniously with that Law.

Some readers may be shocked by what “X” says of black magic. He is not writing to shock them, but to protect and instruct them. Superstition has been called the dark side of religion; but superstition is to be understood, not dismissed with the lifting of superior eyebrows. All things are to be understood. The great psychologists, scientists, do not now consider these subjects beneath their investigation. Refer to Professor William James, to Sir Oliver Lodge, to Dr. Baraduc. The names of recognized scientists who are now investigating occult phenomena would fill a small directory. When I admit that I am seeking to chart the unseen world, I am modestly enrolling myself in good company.

“X” speaks of the “dark-veiled one” who inspired Nietzsche in the misleading of young Germany. Perhaps behind every powerful man or woman whose work has told in the world there has been an invisible one, either light or dark-veiled. The question is not without interest, both practical and theoretical. Inspiration, like magic, may be either black or white.

The “voices” of Jeanne d’Arc would in our day be called clairaudient phenomena. History declares that they rendered her more, not less, efficient as the saviour of France. Martin Luther threw his ink-pot at “the devil” ; but the Reformation was no less ably engineered because Luther had visions. Saul of Tarsus also had a vision, if we may credit the reporters.

“X” speaks of his own Teacher, a “Master.” When I compare the California Judge whom I knew with most of the men and women with whom I prattle about commonplaces, I do not find it difficult to admit the possibility that man may progress even further than “X,” given the resolution so to do. If “X” became what he was in a little less than seventy years, there is hope for us who look forward to eternity.

The second major idea of these “War Letters” seems to be the brotherhood of man.

The world has progressed thus far through a series of well-marked periods, and by means of a series of predominant races which stamped their time with their own peculiar color. “X” says that a new race, the Sixth Race so-called, is about to arise now in the United States.

If America would accept this idea as a working hypothesis - not another "Deutschland fiber Alles," but say "America for (not over) all" - she might build a peace-machine as Germany has built a war-machine. If she should go about it with the same thoroughness, postulating the ideal brotherhood as Germany has postulated world-dominion, she might make a demonstration in the next generation. In the mixture of races in America she has all the materials for any kind of spiritual experiment. Asia and Europe would look on with interest. England, Germany, and France, even Japan who is spiritual underneath and material only on the surface, perhaps Russia above all, would respect such an avowed purpose. It may be that the world will have suffered enough by the end of this war to be ready to welcome universal brotherhood.

Already there are movements in America which would gladly fall into line. "X" speaks of the Woodcraft movement, a loosely organized body of perhaps a hundred thousand men and boys and a few women, who in their playtime have gone back to Nature and the campfire for that fraternity which cities do not give.

"X" says that he has another service to perform in the future. I do not know what that service is, nor whether I have any part in it; but if he should one day declare to me that it was in connection with the Woodcraft purpose, I should not be surprised.

But after living for months with this war book, I cannot yet see it in perspective nor gauge its value. I give it to the world because it seems to belong to the world, and because among the thousand letters which I have received from the readers of "Letters From a Living Dead Man," so many have asked for further writings of "X." The first book is now being translated into four European languages, and other translations have been offered.

I want to thank all those persons in many countries who have written me so kindly about the book. It was more for them than for myself that I embraced the offered opportunity to hear what "X" had to say about the Great War. To receive genuine communications from the other world (assuming as I must that such communication is possible) involves sacrifice on the part of the amanuensis, even in the protected quiet of a country home. To do it in a great rushing city like New York, amidst the distractions of a complex social life, and during a war like this by whose horrors the "sensitive" is especially buffeted, and in a clashing pro-German pro-Allies environment, has been an education in self-control.

But the war cannot last forever, and some day joy will come back to the world.

New York, Sept., 1915.

ELSA BARKER.

WAR LETTERS FROM THE LIVING DEAD MAN

LETTER I

THE RETURN OF "X"

In a far away star I heard the command: "Go back to the earth, and learn the mysteries of love and hate."

I did not know to what I was going, but went as commanded.

As I neared the earth an army of angry beings sought to bar my way. "What are you doing here?" they cried. "This is our field, and we brook no interference."

I called to the Teacher, and he stood beside me. Even he was grave at the power of the forces before us.

"It has come," the Teacher said; "it has come suddenly, after a long preparation."

Wrath is a cosmic force, and hate is a cosmic force, and love is a cosmic force, and fear is a cosmic force. Did you think that love was a pretty sentiment? Did you think that hate was a mere annoyance? I have seen the sources of wrath and hate and love and fear, and that my experience may be of use in helping men to understand the forces working in and behind the race, I have made the effort to write for the world again.

This war is more than a war of men; it is more than a war of angels. Its roots are in Necessity itself.

A new race has to be born, and races like men are born in the pain and the blood of their predecessors. But as "the curse of Eve" came through her listening to the envious serpent of evil, so this curse has come upon the world through mankind's listening to the suggestions of envy and hate from the forces of evil within and around the world.

I have seen those forces in forms; I have faced them and wrestled with them. I am strong because I have struggled.

I came back to the world nearly five weeks before war was declared on earth, but war was already declared in the spaces above the earth. As the nations had long been getting ready their forces, so the entities outside were ready and in arms. The demons who met me - for they were demons - had triumph in their eyes.

A beginning had been made, a seed of anger sown in the heart of Austria. And the seed was watered in the ground by those who felt that their harvest was approaching.

You must understand that evil is co-existent with good so long as the egos of men evolve. The forces of good and the forces of evil are complementary. They are in actual forms, they have acquired egos; their concentration on their work would shame the greatest geniuses among men.

But they too are consciously or unconsciously servants of that Cosmic Will whose designs we call the will of God.

I have learned much since the days when I entertained you with stories of the newly-dead who had died serenely in their beds and had gone out into the astral world as into an adjoining room. A million souls have gone out recently, shocked, torn, mangled, buffeted by their own hate and the hate of those who sought to destroy them.

Pity those who have died even tranquilly during the last eight months. They have passed through a region of torment - those who have passed through. Many have remained below, spun round and round in the whirlpool with those who died by war.

Had I not a great purpose, and the conviction of a great mission, in thus revealing the secrets of the other world at this time, I should not harrow your feelings by a recital of what I have seen and sometimes taken part in since my return from that journey among the stars.

Comfort yourself - if you need comfort - by my assurance that the race is passing through a rite of initiation. Those who have died in the service of an unselfish enthusiasm will in time reborn themselves and reap on the earth the fruits of their service. But not all who have died have been filled with this enthusiasm. Many have hated for hate's own sake. They are the ones who have failed.

Pity them if you must, but it is better not to think about them. They are the willing victims of the demons who sought to bar my way, when I was commanded to return to the world and learn the mysteries of love and hate.

Love! Yes, there has been more love born of this war than the earth has known in all the two thousand years of Christianity. For the human race is awake at last, and that it may not go to sleep again is my purpose in once more breaking through the wall that separates me from you.

March 5, 1915.

LETTER II

A DIVILTER ON THE THRESHOLD

Here was one demon who seemed to be a leader of demons. He was unlike many of the others - more personal, more egocentric.

As we stood opposite each other I entered into conversation with him, partly to satisfy my curiosity, partly to throw him off his guard.

"Who are you?" I asked. "You seem to be a ruler among your kind."

He straightened himself with pride.

"I am indeed a ruler," he said, "a ruler on earth and up here."

“On earth also?” I queried.

“Yes, also on earth,” he answered, “for I am the deeper self of a man who is great among men, a man who will follow my will as others follow his will.” Then he made a claim which startled me, and I forbear to repeat it.

“If you are the evil self of a man still living,” I demanded, “how do you stand as a separate entity up here? How are you apart from him?”

“You are somewhat ignorant,” he said to me.

“I am ignorant of many things,” I admitted. “Instruct me in any way you can. I have a thirst for knowledge.”

“Know then,” he said pompously, “that I broke away from the earthly form that had enchained me when he acknowledged my ruler-ship and worshipped me as his genius.”

“He set you free?” I asked.

“He set me free by acknowledging me as his Master. His knowledge is even less than yours, and he called me by a name that I despise; but so long as I rule I care not the name I rule by. Or I care little,” he corrected himself. “But such things as these are too deep for you!”

“I am deeper than you think,” I asserted, “and I have met your kind before.”

“My kind maybe, but not my equals. I am a King among spirits.”

“I had observed your crown,” I said, “it has a familiar look.”

During this colloquy the Teacher had stood silently by, but now I turned to him with an unspoken question. He led me aside a little way, and said:

“When a man exalts himself too much, he sets free the demon within him. He often thinks that he rules the demon, and sends him on errands through the Invisible; but it is really the demon who commands, and the commands of the man are only echoes.”

“And it took this vision of hell to teach me that!” I exclaimed.

“What you would have learned in due time by reason or by precept, you now learn by example,” the Teacher said. “You have truly beheld the evil self of a great ruler.”

“It is very powerful,” I admitted.

“It will grow in power for a time,” the Teacher said, “and then it will go to Gehenna.”

“And when will it go to Gehenna?”

“When peace returns to the world, after the war is exhausted up here. But the war will be exhausted up here before peace returns to the world.”

“What war is about to be fought?” I asked.

“The greatest war of all time,” the Teacher said, “the greatest war of all time up here,

and also on the earth.”

“And when will it begin?”

“It is already begun here, as you have seen. Had you not been far away you would have known it before.”

“I have indeed been far away,” I said. “An angel has shown me many stars, and I have learned much.”

“The angel kept you away from the world until you should be strong enough, and rested enough, to work as well as learn.”

“And where does my work lie?” I asked.

“In many fields,” he answered. “But first you must fight your way through the astral world above Europe and save your friends who are in danger.”

Swimming the Hellespont was a minor feat compared to swimming that sea of devils, but I got through. A year before I could not have done it, perhaps, for the forces of good were overpowered. There is a tide in good and evil, as well as a tide in the sea. Evil was at the flood.

I saved one friend in danger, and saw that another was safe.

Back in the sea of hate, when I was nearly exhausted, the Beautiful Being, that angel who had been my guide so long, came and whispered something in my ear. It was a spur to ambition.

“You may be the historian of this great struggle,” it said, “if you do not fail in your tasks.”

Do not be startled by the word “ambition.” There are many kinds of ambition, and a sincere wish to be personally of service may as well be called by that name as by any other, if there is love behind it.

March 6.

LETTER III

AN ASSURANCE

Take it from me at this early stage of our writing: The forces of good over-powered the forces of evil a month ago, and the issue is settled here. The power set in motion will spend itself, and peace will return to the world.

March 10.

LETTER IV

THE WAY OF UNDERSTANDING

Before I tell you any more horrors, I want to assure you now that out of those horrors will come a beauty such as the world has not known during this cycle of existence.

It will not come at once, for many adjustments will have to be made; but the way is open already for those who choose to walk in it.

It is a curious commentary on unregenerate humanity, this war in which each side declares loudly its own righteousness and execrates its opponent. As in all quarrels, there is more wrong on one side than on the other; but the side which triumphs - and it will be the side that has least wrong - will have to understand and to forgive its enemy before it can go forward to its own great future.

Though international organizations have failed for the time being, I am not discouraged about international organizations. They were merely shocked into failure, the peace people, the socialists, and others who make far higher claims to the ideal of universal brotherhood.

Even now, during the stress of the conflict, go out yourself in thought and in love to that nation which you feel to be your enemy. Try to understand it. And do not try to understand it by telling yourself that it is evil; that is not understanding. There is evil in all men. Try to understand it by becoming it, for the time. Put yourself in its place; feel as you would feel if you stood alone - even though by your own fault - with the whole world against you.

You draw back a little with the thought that you could not have placed yourself in a position where the world for its own protection would be obliged to range itself against you. But are you sure?

By entering the consciousness of that nation you are placing yourself in such a position, and I tell you to do it temporarily, in order that you may be a centre, a beginning, an infinitesimal part of that international comprehension and pardon which must become general to a degree before the long-heralded and always misunderstood Universal Brotherhood can even begin to find room for itself in this unbrotherly world.

If all those aggregations of people who have long believed that they stood for this ideal would now try to make peace with one another, if they would acknowledge the ideals of one another, however much the working-plans of those ideals may differ, a force could even now be set in motion that would shorten this war and lessen the number of those who must die for their conflicting ideals of national honor and loyalty.

In the reaction from hate to love, in the reaction from criticism to understanding

that will follow a formal declaration of peace, all these quarrelling spiritual organizations may if they will, begin to work harmoniously. If their members cannot bring themselves, because of their narrow pride and the memory of all the harsh things which they have said against one another in the past - if they are too meanly afraid of eating their words, publicly to acknowledge one another as brethren, let them begin to feel thus in their hearts. Perhaps in time the greater courage will come, and some daring leader will say to his flock that those with whom they once worked, with trust and the profession of love, may be trying, according to their lights, to serve the ideal.

I do not know that any further elaboration of this idea would make it any clearer to you, and these remarks are only an interlude, a relief, in the tension of the story which I have to tell.

March 13.

LETTER V

ASTRAL MONSTERS

Did you know that I was near you when you crossed the North Sea more than two weeks before war was declared; crossed to England under an irresistible, an overwhelming impulse to get away from the continent of Europe and back to the people of your own blood? I was near you.

But I did not remain when you were safe with your friends. I returned to the centre of war determinism, went back to that land which, despite all protestations to the contrary, hatched out the egg which an irresponsible bird had laid in the region farther south.

Did I say irresponsible? Only a madman is irresponsible for his acts. Let me say rather deluded, for not all deluded souls are mad. The hand that slew the Austrian Archduke was used, as others have been used, by the forces working against progress. Pity that man also, and let the law of cause and effect deal with him as it must, for there is no favoritism in that court and no appeal to a higher jurisdiction.

I returned to Germany. It will be necessary in this writing to call spades, spades. If I hurt anybody's feelings, I am not writing to hurt anybody's feelings. Facts are facts, and no specious pleading can change them.

I returned to Germany. I listened to war counsels. I heard orders given, for by a special hardening of my astral ears I can hear what is spoken in the world of men and hear very distinctly. My astral body is a well-lubricated though tenuous machine that answers to the lightest touch of my will.

But do not jump to the conclusion that all astral bodies are like mine. Remember that I am the pupil of a great Master, and that his purposes are not his purposes but those of the law of progress which he serves.

I saw again the monster of which I wrote you in my second letter. They speak truth who say that the German Emperor did hesitate to touch the spring which should open the doors of hell. The War Lord had a certain pride in his record as a Peace Lord, and he shivered at the responsibility that faced him while gloating in that responsibility, which further exalted his already self-exalted ego.

Pity him too, but do not sentimentalize over him. Will is free. In yielding his will to the evil genius he was exercising free will. But those eyes of his were wet in the night and he did pray to the Force he calls his God. The name of God was not only on his lips but in his inner thoughts. God is a word that means many things to many persons.

There were also in that conclave of evil spirits many who were not attached to individual men. There were vast elemental beings. When Lytton wrote, in one of his occult novels, of a gigantic foot which stepped through a gap in the magic circle drawn by a black magician in the primeval wilderness, he referred to a fact in Nature.

Nature! You with your narrow sight have no idea of the meaning of the term. All your studies have not taught you even the alphabet that Nature uses. Learn that alphabet. Begin to study that language. Study chemistry, biology, electricity, and study the mysteries of the vibrations of matter on as many planes as you can consciously reach. The knowledge of the future lies there. Man has only begun the conquest of Nature.

Any expression of hate which you ever beheld in the material world was only a weak replica of the hate that was let loose upon the earth when the hour struck last year, the hour when the orbits of certain planetary bodies blended their influences and allowed a free passage for beings who are generally more limited in their freedom of movement.

The giant foot! I saw the great being to whom such a foot belonged. It was a being of the air, but earth beings were allied with it and monsters from the deeper circles of matter where the light of the sun never shines.

Will you let me describe one of those beings? You need not fear it now for it has been driven back to its lair in the bowels of the planet. A gross bluish bag-like body, with a long fat tail covered with bristles, arms and legs like elongated bags, and a head that was a larger and half-submerged bag in the rolls of its monstrous neck. But the eyes! There was no fat-like substance in them. They were wide and round and glaring with a thousand years of malignity concentrated in a moment. Pale eyes they were. If you dread an evil dark eye, dread more an evil pale eye. Suffering unimaginable and hate of everything above it were expressed in the eyes of that entity from the deep of things which from the lowest astral plane spat and drooled its venom toward the surface of the planet. Immense it was in size, toothless and shapeless its mouth. What the nourishment might be which had kept it together I refrain from telling you.

Again I say, do not dread it. It cannot reach toward the surface of the earth now. Its existence is near its term. But the germs of astral disease which were spewed from its shapeless mouth have been multiplying in spite of all the efforts of those who know how to cope with such things.

The beings of the air are not filthy, however evil they may be, and few of them are really evil - few in proportion to those who are amiable or indifferent to man.

The more revengeful of the beings of fire may yet make themselves felt; for sporadic efforts will still be made, though the great struggle is won in the invisible regions.

Stay where you are for the time. A danger still threatens Europe beyond the danger of armies. Wait - and pray. For prayer is an astral force and its effects, being in the higher astral, are far-reaching.

Wait - and pray.

March 15.

LETTER VI

THE ARCHDUKE

Have you ever thought of the posthumous feelings of him whose murder precipitated this war? No, you have not; but I have, and I sought for him and found him.

Others were seeking him too, the souls of the dead and the astral souls of those who slept on earth.

Truly his was not a peaceful passing, either in flesh or in spirit.

The dread of assassination which had long hung over him like a dark cloud predisposed him to a dark and stormy period after death, even if he had not been shocked out by the murderous assault. This was another illustration of that law by which the thing we fear attacks us sooner or later.

At first he passed into darkness and a period of somnolence, like a vague nightmare; then as he gradually awoke to a more vivid consciousness he awoke with pain and anxiety and wailing of soul. The dreaded thing had come at last, and he knew that he was outside his body and searched for it.

The customary funeral was even more dismal for him than it is for most souls, because the slight opening of vision which his passing had given made him realize that far more than his personal death was bound up with this change.

He was not attacked by the evil things which had brought about his death. What more could they want with him? He had served their purposes.

Had there been anyone else round whose murder so much obscurity and so complex a series of misunderstandings and suspicions could have gathered, probably that other man would have suffered in his stead. But whose murder could have served

that purpose so well as this man's? Whose relations placed him in such a focus of rays? His relations with the German Emperor, the relations of his family with those for whom he had no sympathy, the relations of the present heir with Russia - all these and many other sources of error and doubt and confusion formed an ideal centre of tumult.

And the soul felt this tumult in addition to his anger and disappointment at being driven from the world. His anxiety for his children was not small, for they stood in a peculiar position regarding the families around them.

Imagine the thought of every man, woman and child capable of following an event like that, centred on one soul, in anger, love, grief, curiosity, doubt, uncertainty - every mind in almost every country of the world! It was enough to shatter his astral body altogether.

Generally when a ruler dies he is followed by loving thoughts, or thoughts of dislike, but not by confusing thoughts. His race is run. The King is dead, long live the King!

For some time this heir to a great throne was even driven away from the companion whom he loved. He had nothing to lean on. He was drawn upon and victimized by thoughts, thoughts, thoughts, from all directions and in all stages of intensity.

Even the prayers offered for the repose of his soul in purgatory had not the effect which such prayers of love generally have. They were only a drop in the river of thoughts which rushed in his direction. Yes, I say in his direction; for he remained a long time in that storm-centre of thoughts.

Even the band of helpers, of whom I told you when I wrote for the world before, were not able to assist him very much; for they too were attacked by the beings of evil who made war in the astral regions.

As a rule the death of one man makes little difference to the world. Those who love him grieve, and those who dislike him or who profit by his death are glad. This man went out with the flaming torch of war in his vapory hand.

After a time he sought and found his friend, the ruler of Germany; but that ruler could not see him, though he sensed a presence in the room. He was half afraid. What was the presence? he wondered. Was it his own genius? Did it come to remind him that the hour of his "great destiny" was at hand? The hesitation of his weakness was rather shameful to see; but the determination of his strength, of his evil self, set its heel upon the weakness and the preparations for war went on.

The soul of the Archduke was too confused to play a part in those counsels. He had been a strong man, and will be strong again; but during the time when he might have exercised an invisible influence, he exercised none; he strove to make himself visible, and in one instance at least succeeded.

Yes, I spoke with him and advised him; but I had other things to do just then and left him with a priest of his own church, a gentle and strong soul who stood like a rock in

the tumult.

I only mention my seeing the Archduke because of one who will someday read these lines. I cannot offer much comfort, but she will be glad to know of the strong and quiet priest, and I shall have kept a promise which I made but have so far been unable to keep in any way save this.

March 17.

LETTER VII

“THE CHOSEN PEOPLE”

The nations began to declare war on one another. I stood with twenty others for hours in the palace at Potsdam, trying by the silent pressure of will to reduce the pressure of the war-will which surged in the German nation towards its Emperor. And they say that Germany did not want war!

“Der Tag” seemed near, and war seemed to mean triumph.

It is a commonplace to say now that Germany believed that England could not go to war. And had England not gone to war, the issue would have been settled before the date of this writing. The German navy would have met the French in battle and would have worsted it.

It would be well for you to cease shrinking when I say what does not please you. I state what I know; you merely write down what I say.

I and twenty others centred the force of our will in Potsdam and in the Wilhelmstrasse. Not that we did not know what the issue would be. We knew. This war was written in the stars. But as the soldier does his duty though he knows that he will lose the day, so we stood our ground against the war devils.

The greatest of the Masters did not stand there with us, and I do not know where he was. Probably on some business that we might not have understood. Perhaps holding back worse forces from the outer stars.

No, that is not a dream, though it is only a supposition. There is evil as well as good in the outer stars.

Had it not been for the restraining influence of those who watched up here, many of the foreigners in Germany at that time would have been torn limb from limb.

What do you know of war-madness, hate-madness? Were you capable of feeling it in your present personality, you could not write for me now, while those whom you love and respect are nearly all on one side of a war not yet finished. You may grasp hate intellectually, you may dramatize it; but you do not feel it, though you have suffered from its effects.

The worst in the German heart is very bad - though I tell you not to hate them. The

worst in all people is very bad, but the German is the greatest bully on the planet. The cruel Oriental races have a restraint which has grown in them through ages of culture; the German knows only the restraint of the German law, he respects only the restraint of the German law.

He has no sense of right and wrong in the abstract, though he is often extremely sensitive as to what is right and wrong for him in his relation to those near him, his kinsmen and fellow-citizens. But those outside the race-group are outside his code of honor, however polished he may be.

I am speaking now of the race, not of the few who have by long residence abroad absorbed somewhat of world-brotherhood and the more delicate sensibilities of international relations.

And mark this also: The German can love as thoroughly as he can hate; but he can love only his own, something which is an extension of himself, a secondary ego, the me in another form. A German may love a foreign wife, if he can Germanize her. A German may love a foreign friend, if that friend does not stand in the way of something he wants for himself.

I am not referring to those sudden outpourings of emotion to which those emotional people are subject. I am not referring to their surface kindliness, which is the overflow of emotion.

And still I say, love these unlovable people, love them so much that they will be detached from their race-centre and will flow out in melting response to everything that is not German. The world can never really soften the German shell by throwing stones against it. When they break down in this war, they will not be any more essentially lovable because they are weaker. Love them by trying to understand them.

It will take decades for the arrogant and self-exalting German to see that there is anything outside that may be superior to what is inside his shell.

He respects only might. He must be conquered by might. From his enforced respect of a superior might he may be led gradually to see the superior right of that gentleness which does not use its might to coerce him when further coercion is unnecessary.

I have stood in German households since this war began, I have entered into and for the time being have become German men and German women, and I understand them and love them. I even admire them, for their devotion to their own is immense. Once let that strength go out in real brotherhood to all mankind, and these people would be truly great. Is it possible? All things are possible to the human soul, and these people are very human.

The defect is in their vaunted education. They teach themselves that they are the chosen people. When they learn that they are not the chosen people in war, the very

force of the shock may upset the pillar of egotism that stands upright in the centre of the German soul. The world should not let that pillar fall with a crash, but softly ease the blow - not too softly, lest mercy be mistaken for war-weariness.

The World-Mother has a hard and erring child. It has to be punished, but not refused a seat at the family table.

I have said these things to you because, if you do not shrink, I have things to tell you in my next letter which will need fortitude for you to receive, fortitude and charity, whose other name is love.

March 24.

LETTER VIII

SPECTRES OF THE CONGO

I have been in Poland and I have been in Serbia; but now I want to write of Belgium and of karma,* race karma, karma old and new.

* The law of ethical causation.

With and behind the invading Germans, urging them on to murder, pillage and destruction, rape and burning, were not only the devils from the outer vast, whose time for activity had come; but with and behind the German army was a horde of undeveloped and earthbound spirits who had suffered in the Congo. Karma, always karma!

The world knows something of what has been done in Belgium, something of what Germans have done there.

I have seen men, women, and little children murdered in cold blood. I have witnessed the soul of a murdered man tearing at a soldier who was violating the murdered man's wife. I have seen the soul of a mother wringing her hands as she would have wrung them on earth when her little daughter was being maltreated by brutes who were blind with madness. An old man out here followed a soldier for days until he saw revenge accomplished by means of a Belgian bayonet; then as the German soul came out he grappled with it again, and the two were torn by each other, the soldier not knowing he had left the body and feeling that he was at grips with an enemy still on earth.

There was much of what is called Voodoo in the Congo. Its practitioners do not go to sleep for a long time. They go on and on in the invisible world, making their evil preparations and weaving their spells. They gather round spilled blood, they absorb vitality from it, and that vitality they use to bring evil and death upon anything toward which they direct their will.

Did you fancy that will was weakened when man lays aside the brain? It is weakened in the sense that there is less freedom of choice; but there is tremendous will in

following a choice already set up when the physical base of the brain was attached to the will.

But now all the evil karma of Belgium is lived out, and she stands like a new soul in the face of time.

Another race has taken up the load that she laid down. Will that too be expended soon, or late? Germany has woven round herself a shirt of evil causes that will cling to her and chafe her flesh for generations. "It must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh."

The karma of nations is known to the Masters and Adepts.

The karma of England! Have you ever thought about the karma of England? Granting that she has done much wrong, as all old nations have, yet she has allowed herself to be used by the world-will. She, more than all the other old races, has been an instrument in the unifying of the races. Did you fancy that the British Empire was a fortuitous concourse of atoms? Did you think the British Empire merely happened?

And now the British Empire may be used further. She may be used in Belgium. And I do not mean the mere presence of her army in Belgium.

It is said that the Masters, the world's teachers, hold back the awful karma of the world. I am trying to do a little toward holding back the awful karma of Germany.

She has disgraced the human race in Belgium. Everything that has been believed about German outrages in Belgium is true except one thing. So far as I know, and I have enquired of those who know more than I, German soldiers have not cut off the hands of living Belgian children. But they have murdered women, and outraged women, and mocked and insulted pregnant women, and maltreated the new-made mothers of babes that they have murdered. They have burned men alive, and they have buried men still alive.

I say that Germans have done these things. Should I say that the forces of evil, the beings of evil, the superhuman and the once-human forces of evil, have done these things, using as their instruments the forms of German soldiers from which they had thrust for the moment the moral soul?

Take it whichever way you please, for both ways are true. The men who ravaged and destroyed Belgium were not all obsessed, save that evil may be always an obsession.

Help to hold back the awful karma that Germany has made in Belgium.

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father who is in heaven."

March 27.

LETTER IX

UNSEEN GUARDIANS

In the devastated region of Belgium - and most of Belgium is devastated – there stands a little house unharmed and tranquil as before the war. Round about it are ruined walls, standing black with smoke or grey with the powder of shell-fire.

Two women live there, middle-aged women. They did not flee their home when the war-tide rushed over them. They were frightened - yes, but they did not flee. They saw neighboring houses in flames, they heard the detonation of shells bursting; but they remained between their four thin walls, and waited and prayed. Four gods they prayed to, God the Father and God the Son, and two others - their father and mother, who had passed on some years before into the other world, their Belgian father and their German mother!

So great was their faith that they believed they would be unharmed, and they were not harmed. Incredible as it may seem, that little house stands there secure in the midst of desolation.

Love is a protective force. The father and mother of those two middle-aged women had loved each other tenderly. Race was no barrier to their love. The German woman and the Belgian man had taught their children that Germany was their mother and Belgium was their father.

Their bones lie together in the village churchyard, and their souls kept watch when the armies passed over. They guarded the children they loved.

Does this seem an impossible story? I know it to be a fact. I have spoken with that father and mother, and I shall speak with them again. Their faith is rare, and their love is rare, and their reward has been rare.

It is easier to guard a little house than to move a mountain, and it has been said that faith like a grain of mustard-seed could move a mountain.

Those two souls had not yet passed away from the neighborhood of the earth; they waited for their children. When the war-tide rolled over, they stood guard at the doorstone of their home. The spirits of the peaceful dead do not like the sound of shells, but those two did not fly away. Had they been frightened from their vigil, the little house might now be like its neighbors.

Am I over-credulous? Do you remember my telling you one day years ago that you were not credulous enough? I see that you remember. These two - the Belgian father and the German mother - were also credulous, as the world uses the word, and their children were credulous, too. Had the nations been equally credulous of the power of love, there would have been no war; for there would have been no armies to make war.

I am not preaching against armies. I am only preaching love and faith. When love and faith grow greater, armies will grow smaller, and war will be at an end.

I asked the Belgian father how he felt about the war, and he looked toward his German wife; I asked the German mother how she felt about the war, and she looked toward her Belgian husband. Neither would speak for fear of wounding the other.

How should I feel now if my nation were at war, you wonder? But since the eyes of my memory opened and I saw my past lives, I realize that I have had so many nations, have fought in so many armies, have lain in the lap of so many mothers of mine in so many lands, that my spirit is uprooted.

I have joined the great White Brotherhood, to which all men are brothers and all women sisters. It would be difficult for you to see with my eyes. I watch and wait, like the parents of the two old maids in Belgium, and so far the house of my faith stands untouched by the fires of war.

In the great White Brotherhood there are members from many races, there are members from the races now at war. Do you fancy that they looked askance at one another when the world went mad? They did not look askance at one another. Each stood guard where he could do the most good. Each sought to soften the blow for the brethren of his brother, each sought to soften the hearts of his own blood-brethren. But as this war was written in the stars, the Teachers of the world could not prevent it when the hour struck.

Do you know what it means to be a member of the great White Brotherhood? It means to work for the welfare of the human race, for the good of the planet as a whole.

And there is another thing I want to tell you. You have heard of a Black Brotherhood. It is a misnomer. Brotherhood is never black. There is no Black Brotherhood. There are many Black Masters, for Mastership, like a garment, may be either white or black. In this war the black forces who have inspired hatred in men have worked for one end, and that very fact will weaken their power to do evil for a long time, when the results of their present labors are over.

Do you get my meaning? A combination of evil forces, in the very act of combining, weakens the individual power of its members; for evil is strongest when individual.

Two who are full of love may work together with the power of four; but two who work together for evil have only the power of - shall I say one and a half? And one and a half against four! If you love power, use power for good and increase it.

It is because of the multitude of elementary evil forces, all hurling their malice at the world, not because of their combination, that this madness was made possible.

Hate is a disintegrating force. Those who hate after this war will disintegrate themselves. Those who love after this war will grow strong. France especially will grow strong, because there is more love than hate in France. France loves so much that even her enemies do not hate her. It is not merely because she is not so brutally strong as her great enemy.

Love your enemies. That is the surest way to overcome them.

March 29.

LETTER X

ONE DAY AS A THOUSAND YEARS

As I am writing about war, I wish to talk to those who have lost their loved ones in this war.

You who grieve for the untimely dead, have you not read that one day shall be as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day?

We must start on the basis of re-birth, whose other name is rhythm, and whose course is immortality. Immortality presupposes no beginning and looks forward to no end. The spirit always was and always will be. In the life of the spirit one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years are as one day.

Birth is the morning of a new day, and death is, the evening of that day, and the period between lives is the period of sleeping and dreaming. Or you may turn it the other way and say that life is a dream and death the awakening to reality. But the rhythm is sure.

Falling asleep is a passing through the astral world, much as the soul passes through it after death. You who write for me, and a few others, pass through it in full consciousness. Some day all men will pass through it consciously and will bring back the memory.

You who grieve for the dead, remember that a lifetime is but a day to the immortal spirit. Often have you parted from a loved one for a day and felt no grief thereat. The loved one left home to perform a duty and you felt sure that the next day you would see him again. Can you not feel that in the next day of the soul, the next lifetime (it is all the same in eternity), you will greet your loved one again?

Friends do not meet in every life unless they are very intimate. As you do not see one friend or another oftener than once a week, so in the greater days of the soul you may not meet all your friends every day. You part from one on Monday with a definite engagement to meet on Friday. Four days, four lifetimes, it is all the same in eternity.

But from some you only part for a few hours, from noon to sunset, and meet again in the evening in the intimacy of home. Those who have left you now at the midday of life will perhaps come home to you at the sunset; which is only another way of saying that they may meet you at the end of this day of the soul, the end of this life, and be with you in the twilight period of the astral life and in the sweet dream of heaven beyond. Do not grieve. Love waits for its own.

Some friends you may meet again two, four or seven lifetimes away; but those who

are really your intimates, your lovers, your own, you will meet again at the sunset, or at the latest tomorrow - the next day of the soul on earth.

How will you prepare for the meeting? Will you not work cheerfully all day, knowing that at dusk Love will come back to you? As sunset approaches, will you not robe yourself in the white garment of faith, the evening garment, and watch for Love at the window? Love will come. Can you not in anticipation hear his footstep on the gravel? Can you not hear the click of the lifted latch? Will you not go forward with a smile to greet Love? Surely, one day shall be as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.

I took counsel with the soul of an English officer who died in leading a charge. His death was quick and painless. A shot through the heart and he found himself - after a period of unconsciousness - still, as he supposed, leading a charge.

But there was no enemy before him, nothing but the tranquil fields above the tumult; for so great was his exaltation of spirit - he had died with the thought of his Love in his heart - that he had gone up and up to the region where Love may have room.

Seeing nothing before him he paused, looked round and saw me.

"Brother," I said, "you have left the war behind you."

He understood. Those who have lived for weeks in the tents of Death are not slow in recognizing Death when he lifts the curtain.

"And what of the charge?" he asked eagerly. "Was the charge won?"

"Yes," I replied, "the force of your spirit won it."

"Then all is well," was his answer.

"Rest a little," I said. "Rest and talk with me."

"Have we met before?" he asked. "For your face is familiar to me."

"My face is familiar to many on the battlefields," I said.

"When did you come out here?"

"Three years ago."

"Then you can teach me much."

"Perhaps I can teach you something; what do you want to know?"

"I would know how to comfort one to whom my death will bring great grief."

"Where is she?" I asked.

He named the place.

"Then come," I said, "I will go with you."

We found a beautiful woman in a little room in England, a little room which

contained a little bed. And in the bed was a boy four or five years old. We could hear the voices of the mother and child as they tallied together.

“And when will father come home?” the little one asked.

“I do not know,” said the mother.

“Father will come home, won’t he? Are you sure that he will come home?”

“I pray that he comes home soon,” was all the mother said.

The eyes of children, as they pass into the twilight world, the world between waking and sleeping, are sometimes very clear.

“Why, father has come home!” the child cried, and he stretched out his arms to the father with a glad cry.

And the mother knew and was very still.

But her grief was softened by knowing that he whom she loved had come home and that her child had seen him. I think he will remain with her until she can join him here. The delay will not retard the progress of his soul. Love is the fulfilling of the law. There is time in eternity for love and the delays of love. In love a thousand years are as one day.

March 29.

LETTER XI

MANY TONGUES

Learn languages. My work in this war has been hampered by my knowing so little of German.

With the souls of those long here I can hold converse by pure thought; but the souls of the newly-come speak the language they spoke on earth and often that language is but a patois. That is one reason why I have had best success among the English armies.

I can read the thoughts of the Germans and the French, but they cannot always understand me. The father and mother of the two women in Belgium had been so long out here that we could understand each other’s thoughts.

Learn languages. When you come to work in this world you may want them even more than on earth, for distances here are short as thought, and one goes from place to place in the twinkling of an eye.

March 30.

LETTER XII

THE BEAUTIFUL BEING

The angel we call the Beautiful Being, who guided me on my journey among the planets, would like to insert here a few words on Love and Hate. They seem to be an expression of the mortal and the Immortal Self, in the early days of the war.

LOVE AND HATE

One whom I loved made war on me, and the nations of the earth made war on one another. The green fields were stained with blood and the hum of the harvest crickets was drowned in cries of pain and rage, as men rushed on to wreak their hate upon their human kindred. My heart was sadder than the skies of the London winter. No joy there seemed in all the earth; for love was dying and peace was dead, and men were going everywhere to death. MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN was written on the walls of the human temple.

And I said to my heart:

"Where have we drifted in the midday of our life? And why do we wait for the sunset? For love has failed, and the world has failed, and have we not failed, too?"

Then as I sat gazing into the nothingness of my own faith, I heard a voice that seemed to come from the centre of all things and the voice said:

"Take your pen and write, for to him who has lost everything the treasures of the Self are opened.

"I am that Self that you had forgotten when you looked outside for love. I am the Self that the nations had forgotten when they went out to destroy one another. I am the One Self, and my house is in all these hearts that throb with hate and love. When they wound each other they wound me; when they doubt each other they doubt me; when they love each other they love me. There is no other way of realizing me save by love and hate and faith and doubt. For love and hate are two poles of the one magnet, and doubt and faith are my twin-born children.

"He who has never doubted all, knows not the meaning of faith; and he who has never been hated, knows not the meaning of love.

"When the heart is empty of joy I fill it with myself. When my own destroy each other on earth they rush together in heaven. Freed from the blindness of the body they see each other true.

"Two soldiers went forth to war, and the bullet of each pierced the heart of the other. Their hate was hot as love. Then in the sudden darkness of death they reached for each other's hand; their hate had found its other pole and they melted together in love.

"Two friends went forth to war against each other, and with every wound they drew nearer together—the soul of each grieved for the other's pain, and neither in

death nor life can one escape the other.

"Would you avoid a loved one, then never dare to hate him. The soul has pity when the brain is pitiless; the faith of the soul may be strongest when the mind is weak with doubt.

"The soul of the brain that hates you keeps watch when the brain is still, it wipes with its vapory hand the tear-drops from your eyes.

"When you weep in dreams, know that your soul is weeping for the tears you have caused your enemy. When you wake with wet eyes, you are paying the debt of love.

"Be kind to him who loves you, for love is a helpless waif ; if you drive it from the heart it can only wander alone.

"Be kind to him who hates you, for his waif is wandering alone.

"When you go to sleep, send love to the one who wounds you by day. If you go to sleep in hate you will wake with wet eyes.

"I am the go-between. I am the Self whose house is in every heart. I take messages in the darkness. I am too great to be proud. I run errands for my own.

"How well you have tried to hate I know by your heart's sadness. That you have failed to hate is because your soul is sleepless.

"I am the go-between and I keep my lantern lit."

April 1.

LETTER XIII

THE BODY OF HUMANITY

I have said that as twenty of us stood in the palace at Potsdam and in the Wilhelmstrasse, the greatest of the Teachers was not with us.

You do not know the name by which we know him, nor do you need to know. He is one who has left so far behind him the personal limitations of life as you know it that he can look upon that life somewhat as the Planetary Logos may look upon it. He can look at the restless and warring beings on earth as you would look at micro-organisms through a lens. Amoeba, fat-cell, pus-cell, he sees them all as parts of the great Whole, and their wars do not make him partisan.

The assertions, the reiterations, the bombastic prayers of the German Emperor, who goes on the assumption that God must be on his side because it is his side, do not move this Master even to smiles. Absurdity and tragedy are one to him, except as they further or retard the growth of the organism of Humanity.

If you get into your consciousness a realization, not a mere philosophic theory, of the One and the many, you will understand that the One is in all the many, whether some of them be your friends or your enemies.

Another thing remember: To posit is to create. Posit and thus create brotherhood. But do not posit it too violently, lest you climax your rhythm too soon and produce by reaction the opposite of brotherhood.*

* I have been somewhat troubled by the unusual expression, "climax a rhythm." But as there are many rhythmic ripples in every great wave, and as the highest reach of a wave may be said to be its climax, I assume that "X" is using words with the same judicial precision which he used on earth, and that the climax of a rhythmic wave may be called the climax of a rhythm. - Editor.

The greatest of the Masters seemed to us to posit no new thing when the war-cloud gathered.

We whose knowledge is not infinite tried to serve as physicians, tried to cool the fever that was burning the cells of the Great Man, Humanity. We may be said to have given him mental treatment, to have urged on the curative process.

The astral forces with which we struggled were like germs of disease in the air. From the view-point of the great Master they were no more than infusoria which you could see through a lens.

Adjust your view to eternity as well as to time, if you would understand him and help him in his work. But do not regard your own work as unimportant because it is in time, because from the greater point of view you fancy that it may appear small.

How does a man become a Master save by doing his work as if the health of the whole planetary organism depended on it? The perfect health of the organism does depend on the work of every cell.

Now let me tell you why this war had to be. The time had come when humanity must realize brotherhood in preparation for the new race that had to be born. Instead of that, there was greater and greater separation in feeling, though the material discoveries and organizations of the last hundred years were making brotherhood possible in the material world.

The rhythm of separateness was climaxed by this war of separation. Without it the brotherhood of man would have been retarded by man's refusal to work emotionally with the law that had already been demonstrated to him in the physical world.

In other words, the body had grown faster than the soul and the soul had to suffer with the body; the soul had to be torn in order that it might heal itself by its own power, the power of love.

I spoke of not climaxing too violently the rhythm of brotherhood. That applies to all rhythmic waves. The Germans desired to be the ruling race of the world. They posited their own superiority so violently that they are producing the opposite of superiority. Posit with calmness.

They might have been the leaders in the new spirit of unity. They have failed and have lost their opportunity. The mass of Germans in the United States might have been a unifying force between the United States and Germany. See what they are

now!

The reason why Germany was not permitted by the Masters to have large colonies of her own was so that her surplus population might scatter over the earth and mix with other races.

The German blood needed mixing. Her efficiency in material ways might thus have leavened the world.

Instead, she became drunk with her own greatness. She climaxed the rhythm that might have carried her steadily forward. It is a karmic failure she has made.

The races are like organs in the body of Humanity. If one race refuses to work with and for the body of Humanity as well as for itself, it becomes diseased.

If Germany would even now turn to the Supreme Unity and worship the One of the System instead of her little racial god, she could recover the ground she has lost, after a time of suffering and initiation. Will she do it? That remains to be seen. Help with the Masters to hold back the bad karma of that race.

LETTER XIV

THE FOEMAN WITHIN

You have something more to do than simply to write down what I say about brotherhood. With selfless devotion you must help the world to realize it, pointing out the way to individuals and aggregates of individuals.

Universal Brotherhood! It has a pretty sound, and mouths have repeated it for the sake of its music, when the meaning of it was neither in the heart nor in the brain.

Universal Brotherhood is not only the brotherly relation between the units of the Many, but Universal Brotherhood is also their unity, conscious and real, in the One Self. Universal Brotherhood is the return of the Many to the One, as well as their enjoyment of the journey itself.

You have repeated the old Hindoo word, formula, mantra, AUM, repeated it like a parrot; but if you had realized AUM I should not have to preach brotherhood to you, and by "you" I mean all men and women who have prattled of Universal Brotherhood.

A-U-M - the One, the Many, and the Union between them: the Self, the Not-Self, and the Negation of separateness. AUM, the seed, the plant and the perfume.

What do you fancy that you are in the world for?

You have heard of Mulaprakriti, you Theosophists: Mulaprakriti, root-nature. You have heard of the three gunas, or qualities of Mulaprakriti, satwa, rajas, tamas: satwa, light, being, peace; rajas, action, passion, assertion; tamas, darkness, inertia, denial.

Some of you have also heard of Christ, Lucifer, Ahriman. - Satwa, rajas and tamas, again, under other names.

You Kabalists have heard of Neshamah, Ruach, Nephesh: aspiration, individual intelligence, materiality.

You have all heard of Vishnu, Brahma, Shiva: the Preserver, the Creator, the Destroyer. —Yes, that is the proper order, for Vishnu preserves from kalpa to kalpa, and Brahma recreates.

Krishna (Vishnu) says in the BhagavatGita, “I am the Self that is seated in the hearts of all beings.”

He is the One and the Many, for He is in the many and the many are in Him. You cannot realize Krishna save as you realize Him as the Self that is seated in the hearts of all beings. You cannot realize the Christ until you can see Him in the hearts of all beings.

Yes, you may struggle with one another and call it hate, or war; that is separateness.

Separateness is necessary as a stage of evolution, that the ego may realize itself as distinct; but the time has come when the race should turn back toward its Source, to Unity, to the Atma that is the same in everyone.

I have learned much since I last left you two years ago. On earth I did not talk incessantly of Universal Brotherhood. I wanted to achieve a “peerless individuality.” Well, I have achieved it. On my two years’ journey among the planets and elsewhere, I found the power I sought; but I found something else - love, the greatest power of all.

Brotherhood is love and that is why I preach brotherhood. You may acquire individuality by hating, but not a “peerless individuality.”

Do not be afraid of losing your identity. So long as you can love something other than yourself you will not lose your individuality. For to love something other is to posit your individuality.

To love only your separate self is to lose your hold on individuality, for you are only an individual in relation to other selves. Alone in the universe, you would have to be nothing or everything, and you cannot be everything - not just yet, save as you are everything through unity with everything, and that is love.

Rebel as you will, by that very rebellion against others you assert their equality with you, you assert their co-existence, and behind co-existence is Unity, Krishna, “the Self that is seated in the hearts of all beings.”

Do not be shocked when I say that from our point of view this war seems very childish, very ignorant.

War was noble a long time ago when mankind was on its way out and needed to realize separateness; but in course of time war will become not only unnecessary,

but banal.

I am not jesting with serious things. I know far better than you can know how very serious this war is, for I have watched it on both planes.

The war between the forces of good and evil was not banal. In the human heart that war will go on for a long time yet, aeons on aeons; but the day has come when men should war with the evil in themselves, and let other men war with the evil in themselves. The sword of Mars, the war-god, will not rust so long as the Mars in man wields it against the powers of darkness in himself.

I have seen the powers of darkness in men exteriorized, have seen them in objective form, and I assure you they are foemen worthy of your steel. Each of you has within a foeman worthy of his steel.

Each man has also the Self, the divine, the Christ, the Krishna that is seated in the hearts of all beings.

I want to tell you something which I saw with my own eyes.

On a battlefield in France, two soldiers killed each other with the bayonet. The devil in each escaped with the soul. They were not ordinary men. I saw these two devils, these two “dwellers on the threshold,” these two “desire-elementals,” call them what you will. Do you think they fell upon each other to destroy each other? Not at all. Each fell upon the soul it belonged to. They had no interest in each other; they had nothing to give or to take away from each other, these devils, dwellers, elementals.

Do you see what I mean?

Your enemy is within you.

The one you fight outside is your brother. Love him with brotherly love and your devil will grow weaker as your angel grows stronger.

Your angel is descended from the Atma, the Christ, the Krishna in you. It is similar to the Atma, the Christ, the Krishna in your brother.

The devils are all very individual. The angels are all very much alike, though some are stronger than others and older in experience.

Seek the Christ in yourself that it may arise, with tidings of great joy unto all men.

That is what I wish to say to the world on this evening before Easter Day.

April 3.

LETTER XV

LISTENING IN BRUSSELS

NO, do not expect me to write essays. I am writing letters. Let me be as discursive as I please. But you will see at the end of my labors that the building has a frame, and that all the parts are in place.

Having philosophized the last time, I will now tell you a story.

When the German army passed through unresisting Brussels (three days, if I remember rightly, it was passing through, a long, moving grey-green river of men, on whose helmeted ripples the sunlight or the lamplight glittered), I stood for an hour unnoticed upon a balcony, reading the thoughts of man after man as he passed before my place.

As I have explained to you before, I have no difficulty in reading the thoughts of the Germans; it is only in trying to make them understand me that I often fail.

The river of men and the river of thoughts, each man a ripple, each thought a ripple!

Here are a few ripples of thought which caught the light of my attention:

“What a beautiful city Brussels is!”

“My feet are tired. My shoes hurt me.” “That tree yonder is like the one beside the door at home.”

“Mother will be making coffee at this hour.” “What a pretty girl - the one with the bread in her basket!”

“I wonder if Gretchen will talk much with Hans now I am gone.”

“That gate on the left is the one that Marie sent me on a picture postcard last year.”

“My feet are tired. My shoes hurt me.” “So this is Brussels! I always wanted to see it.”

“My head aches.”

“Deutschland fiber Alles! Deutschland fiber Alles!”

“I wonder if the Lieutenant paid his tailor.” “How warm it is!”

“What is father doing now?”

“I wish I had a glass of beer!”

“I am glad we don’t destroy Brussels!” “What is all this war about, anyway?” “The Fatherland! The Fatherland!”

“What will they give us for supper?” “I wonder where we are going?”

“This isn’t so fine as the Unter dem Linden.” “When we get to Paris I must see the Venus of Milo.”

“My head aches.”

“Our baby has a tooth!”

“Will it ever be supper-time!”

And so on and on and on, as the long grey-green river flowed through the city of Brussels.

And these were the men that in a little while would murder and rob and burn and rape, and murder and rob and burn! Many of them had done so already - these tired men with their aimless, unwarlike thoughts, their commonplace soldier thoughts, of home and food and aching feet and of postcards Marie sent last year and the hour for mother's coffee!

What power transformed them into devils? What demon dehumanized them till they forgot their weariness? Was it the raucous cry of the war-trumpet? Was it the devil behind the devil who blew the trumpet? Was it the evil spirit of a nation, or merely the spirit of war?

It was all of these things.

Perhaps when they began their marching they thought of glory and hate and life and death and honor; but they had been marching long and their thoughts had become simple as the thoughts of weary old men.

What was it all about? What power was driving them on?

Some of these men killed unresisting civilians, struck down helpless children, maltreated nuns and other virgins, drove old men and women before them as a shield against the fire of the opposing forces.

What roused the devil in them? Your friend is right in saying that the war-trumpet is an instrument that can rouse the demon that sleeps in the human breast. He says that the demonic forces outside can make their entry into our world and our personalities riding on the tones of the trumpet-horn. He is right.

He says that it brings the element of fire into the soul. Profoundly true! Fire, the element of destruction, that purifies by destroying what cannot resist it. Fire in the soul and fire in the nerves and fire at the end of the rifle - and death by fire to all that gets in its way!

I have listened for days to the ear-splitting noise by which Germany seeks to put hell into the hearts of her soldiers. My ears rang with it yesterday.

Why do you start? Have you not yet accustomed yourself to the thought that I can go back and forth, from the hell of Europe to the purgatory of New York? Yes, the Germans in New York are in purgatory, for they know that their cause is lost. Purgatory is for purgation. Let us hope that it may accomplish its purpose in their hearts. And I do not say this to be unkind, but rather as a blessing. I love the Germans, and all other races. So also do you - in your heart of hearts.

Yes, it was I who, through an easy instrument, directed you to the German doctor. I wanted you to see how good a German can be. There are many such in that hell-

racked nation.

You should understand that hell comes into a man - he does not go into hell. Have you not heard that man is the Microcosm of the Macrocosm? Those tired grey-green soldiers that I watched in their march through Brussels were each of them large enough to contain hell and heaven and a world of spirits. All of them had contained heaven many a time, when listening to the strains of their master-musicians. It was when the war-trumpet sounded, and the war-hate and the war-lust awoke in them, that they contained hell.

Many a time have I clutched with my too-tenuous hands a German soldier who was about to disgrace himself.

Once, at Namur, I kept a young man from doing something that would have darkened his judgment of himself while his life lasted - and it lasted only twenty-one days thereafter. He was a good boy; but the devil awoke in him as it awoke in others. It was because he was more sensitive than some others that I could make him feel my restraining hands. He thought they were the hands of his dead grandfather, who had left him only a year before. What matter? He let his victim escape.

(Yes, look up Namur on the map, if you wish to! You will find it in the right place. Your uncertainty as to Belgian geography does not trouble me; but your return to the world of your own thoughts has broken the thread of mine.)

LETTER XVI

THE SIXTH RACE

Have you thought about the United States after this war? A new race is being prepared for in the United States. That is why you had to be born there - you through whom I write. That is why I am trying to use you in my work for Universal Brotherhood.

No, you need not remain in the United States. It is better that you should continue to mingle with other races in their old habitations.

The Theosophical Society could not have been born anywhere else. Spiritualism could not have been born anywhere else. In the United States is a readiness for new things, a reaching out for the untried, a welcome for things because they are new.

Of course this tendency may be and is abused. Almost any faker can find followers in the United States; but without that hospitable spirit towards the New, the great new race could not come into existence there.

This race is not made of new souls, but of the oldest and most experienced souls, experienced in other lives of the past. The ingenuousness and the childlike quality of Americans are the results of spiritual maturity. The race, as a race, is in its youth; but the souls are old as time.

After they have taken a much needed rest, many or most of the souls that go out by death in this war will find rebirth in the United States. Oh, that land will be a very wonderful place in seventy-five or a hundred years!

You will not be here then, unless you discover the fountain of immortal youth, or unless you come back soon, renouncing the rest in heaven.

Ponce de Leon was inspired when he sought the fountain in the New World. It is there if anywhere; but Australia and Russia will run you a keen race for the future.

No, I shall not tell you about the Seventh Race. It will come in good time; but now I want to talk to you about the Sixth, one of whose pioneers you are.

Do not cut this out of my book because an enemy once said that you were egotistical. Our enemies always see and hate their own qualities in us. Develop some quality an enemy has not, and he (or she) will love you for it. The horseman is not jealous of the musician in his quality as musician. It is the musician who is jealous of the musician, the egotist who sees and hates another's egotism. If Germany were a weak nation she could not so hate England for her greater power.

When the Sixth Race is fully incarnate, all men and women of real development will be able to see in the astral world, and to hear unspoken words, and to read the thoughts of others. Of course there will be people of all grades of development in that new race. Equality of development is a pretty dream, you Socialists. Have you not also your superior ones, your leaders? The less developed souls who come into incarnation with the Sixth Race are those who have earned in the past the right to be open to the quickening influences of that race. How have they earned that right? By their willingness to change and to grow.

Go out on the hillside and watch the growing things. Take a leaf from the book of Nature.

You wonder about the future of England. Old England is provided for. Has she not given birth to the civilization you enjoy? Other races were present, of course; but language tells the story.

As I said before, England has been an instrument in the hands of these Great Ones who wished to make possible the fraternity of races. She has carried the torch round the world. She has tied continents together, and woven the chain which will bind men to each other in days that are to come. Honor her, for she deserves honor.

Honor all nations, as aggregates of souls, your brother-souls; but honor most those nations that have worked with the Law and not against it.

Those who aspired to see Germany the cradle of the new race should have made less noise in the birth-chamber. They have scared the angel visitor away.

There are four races in Europe that are cruel races. They cannot rock the cradle of the divine infant. They would not remove the pin that stuck in its back, lest if it did not suffer and cry its lungs would lack air. I need not name these races.

The Sixth Race is a sensitive infant and learns more through love than through discipline. The Sixth Race will apply the discipline to itself when it feels the need of it. Its schoolmaster will be curiosity, and its play will be the sciences and arts of peace. Its cradle-song will be a chant of brotherhood. No, it could not be rocked in a German cradle; but many a German-American will help to rock it. They make lovely cradle-songs, the Germans, when they forget the superiority of being grown-ups and go back to the fancies of childhood, the myth-making fancies.

We want to see more and more Frenchmen in the United States, for France has more to teach the new race than has any other nation - France, the inspired prophet, and most of all France the critic. Americans are not critical enough, not analytical enough, not subtle enough. America needs France, and the men and women of France. You have heard the old saying, "Every man has two countries, his own and France." I may be misquoting, but the idea is there.

You wonder how anyone born to the glory and charm of France should ever come to the New World? But many will come, and more will follow, both by the path of the ocean and by the path of rebirth. You came that way yourself, if you but knew it.

Recover the memory of past births, you pioneers of the Sixth Race! You can do it. It is part of the heritage of that race.

America, the "melting-pot" of nations! You were not made to rule an outside empire. When the time comes make over the Philippine Islands to a nation that can be trusted with them. Your empire is within your own body, you race of a score of races, you inheritor of a score of fathers, you mother of the one new race!

Increase your army and navy so long as you are nervous. Put lightning-rods on your house and burglar-alarms on the doors and windows. Feel secure. Then dream about brotherhood - when you can trust in it.

Sit by the fire of your own coal dug from the ground by Dutchmen, as it burns in a chimney of your own bricks made by the hands of Irishmen, read your own newspaper printed in the language of Englishmen, by the light of your own lamp made by a German, on your own hearth-rug made by a Turk or an Armenian, enjoy the feel of your own muscles trained by a Swede, in your own linen washed by a Chinaman, listen to your daughter playing on your own piano the music of a Russian, an Italian, a Pole or a Frenchman, see all over your own room things made by the sons of a dozen other races, your neighbors, your fellow-citizens, your fellow-Americans, then tell me whether you dare not to believe in Universal Brotherhood, and in the new race, the synthesis of all races!

April 8.

LETTER XVII

AN AMERICAN ON GUARD

I want to speak more of France, and of what she can do for America, the land of the coming new race.

I have spoken before of her love, which is so great that even her enemies cannot hate her. I have praised her critical genius, which analyses all things and compares one with another. But now I want to speak of her charm and her courtesy.

You have said yourself that good-manners are the imitation of kind-heartedness. To imitate is to emulate. A race that has charming manners has a heart. A race that is brusque needs to cultivate heart.

Employ French teachers in your schools, you Americans. A French teacher or a French mother tells her children not to do a certain thing because it is not pretty, another word for charming, for kind-hearted. If you imitate kind-heartedness in this way, perhaps you will someday feel it, you American children.

By setting up the standard of beauty in deportment you need have no fear of forgetting the ethical. You all drank Puritan ethics with your mother's milk; there is no danger that those precepts will be lost if you practise charm a little by way of variety.

Every face in France was once a smiling face. It was not so this afternoon when I passed through France on my way to you. But the faces are still brave, because it is not pretty to make a parade of sorrow. I know the excess of French mourning-apparel might be called a parade of sorrow, but the black is worn as a mark of respect for all the dead of France.

Taste! There is a race which has it. And in advising America to learn from the French, I am naturally selecting the good qualities of that nation. We all have faults of our own.

The taste of the French in the United States at this time! Do they print journals in English attacking their enemy? Do they support a lobby in Washington and a press-bureau in New York? If so I have not heard of them and we hear of most things out here - we who keep our ears to the ground. If they grieve for their stricken country, they do not drop their tears on America's freshly ironed shirt-bosom. If they hate their enemy, they hate him with a quiet, well-bred hate. If France wins a victory in the field, they do not bluster about it. If France loses in the field, they do not call their enemy a rattlesnake or some other kind of reptile. It would not be pretty. It might not be unethical, but it would be bad taste.

Americans bluster too much. I said that when I was myself an American, before I was uprooted and became a citizen of the world invisible and universal, and I have not changed my mind by association with angels, adepts and masters. They never bluster, but the devils often do.

In advising America to learn from France those things in which France is supreme, I am not depreciating other races. Each nation can learn something from every other nation. The Chinese and the Japanese have points where they rise above their neighbors. So have the Americans.

This war has brought out the dominant traits in all the warring peoples, and their complementary traits. Have you ever thought of the "turbaned Turk" (or, to be less Shakespearean, the fezzed Turk) as being gullible? Treacherous races are always gullible, as cruel races are apt to be sentimental - in all that touches themselves. "Free America" must beware of too many laws. England, too conscious of her virtue, will one day yield to temptation. Germany, "over all," has got the whole world on top of her. Italy, the excitable, is now deliberating to a degree that would be dangerous for any other land. "Neutral America" is so unneutral that her right hand threatens her left, and both the whole body.

Do not be impatient with President Wilson. He is dealing with the problems of the present war as if they were dated 500 B. C., and the long view is apt to be the clear view. The professor in him is safer than the politician in him. He is not happy just now. Why? Oh, that is an affair of State, and I am writing for publication! I know so many secrets that I am discreet as the family doctor.

But there is an "American on guard tonight." Who is he? Old Abraham Lincoln, who renounced heaven that he might watch over the land he lived and died for.

No, I shall not tell you any more about him. There is something sacred in a soul's renouncing rest. He will not go too far away until America passes through her next great trial. When will that be? As the Beautiful Being says, "Nay, Child, you ask too much."

And still you are eager to know about Abraham Lincoln! I was eager to know about him myself a few short years ago; but I did not ask too many questions. It would not have been pretty, as the French mothers say.

April 8.

LETTER XVIII

A MASTER OF COMPASSION

In my former book I reminded you that your friends who had passed into the astral world did not know everything; that though their sight was longer than before and their eyes less clouded by matter, they yet could not always prophesy as glibly as fortune-tellers - or at least that they were wiser not to attempt it. Now I have in mind an illustration of that very point, only the subjects are much more exalted than the ordinary dwellers on the astral plane.

There is, for instance, not perfect unanimity in our minds as to all the details of the end of this war. There are two of us who often discuss ways and means, who, while

desiring the same result of peace, have slightly varying views as to the best possible way to bring that result to pass.

One of our Brothers, who is still occupying his physical body most of the time, has a great desire to soften so far as possible the blow that is to fall upon one of the nations in this war. We all want to soften so far as possible the blow for that nation; but he has in his mind a plan which would, if put into effect, very materially soften it. He knows that he could perhaps bring it about in the way he wishes; yet he is far too wise to force the issue. He will not force the issue. He tries softly to inspire those who have it in their power to suggest the beginnings of peace according to his ideas. We do nothing to deflect the current of his loving thoughts, for he is the only one among us - and by us I mean the Brothers of a certain development - he is the only one among us who has a greater tenderness for one race than for all the others. He is not so old as some of us, but he is one of the greatest.

He may be able to do what he wishes, but I personally am not sure. In one way he is wiser than I am; but my judgment is not at all influenced by tenderness for my own native land, which is not yet directly concerned, and so I may be a safer judge than he.

Do not take this as an admission of weakness in my Brother. Love is not a weakness.

This Brother wrote a prediction through the hand of a pupil of his not long ago. Perhaps it will be verified. Nothing will be thrown by any of us in the way of its verification. In fact, if it is the best way it will have the support of all.

Even a Master does not know everything, though to the blind eyes of lesser men he seems to know everything. And a Master is too wise to attempt to force his individual will upon the world. The black magician is willing to bring things to pass by the power of his will, and often he can do it; but he does not always count on the reaction. The White Master always counts on the reaction. He works with the Law.

There is arising now in America a school of magic, for it is a form of magic that they practise, and the teachers of this school instruct their followers how to bring events to pass, how to demonstrate in the material world the material desires of their hearts. They can do it, the strong ones can, if their desires are not against the great stream of desire that carries the race forward. But often these material desires are not in strict accord with the karma of the person desiring; that is, the balance of karma being worked out now may be so violently drawn upon in one direction, that for the following life there will be left only a lot of unhappy karma, weak karma, which has not been wisely distributed over that time in which they have been operating with this new plaything, this magic power which they are using to make their present lives one glad sweet song.

The way to get what you want is to will what the great Law decides. That is what the Masters do. And I am not denying the greatness of my Brother whom I mentioned a few pages back. He wills the will of the great Law, the same as all of us do; and if his

tenderness for his native land has inspired him to devise a plan which seems in harmony with the great Law, he would not put the plan into effect if he could, should he realize that it was not in accordance with that law.

There is always danger for the man who is not a Master in pitting his judgment against the law of karma. If a poor man wants to be rich, and if he wills hard enough, he can become rich; but he many miss by the way other things that his soul needs far more than it needs riches.

One of the greatest dangers that face America in the future is the danger of black magic. Among a hundred men or women who take up New Thought, Christian Science, ceremonial magic, and certain philosophies with even loftier verbal aims, there may be one whose desire is perfectly pure and unselfish.

There is great power in America. The untrodden hills and mountains are full of fresh new forces that man may draw upon. Also the astral world above America—that layer of the astral which lies immediately outside the physical continent, as the aura of man extends beyond his body - that layer of the astral world above America is full of forces, elemental and astral forces, which can be used consciously by those who know how to use them, and which are used unconsciously by those whose personal desires are so strong that the more or less impersonal forces are obliged to follow them - swung into line by the power of desire or will.

Great danger lies that way for those who use such forces for evil, and between selfish desire and evil the veil is very thin.

There are seeking incarnation in this new race many of those whose magical work along dark lines was interrupted in the old days of Atlantis. Yes, that story of Atlantis is true. Many of these souls are now coming in, some here and some in other countries; but their main course is in the direction of the New World. More and more the forces of magic will be used in the New World. It is for you and for others who know that magic used for selfish purposes is always black magic, to warn those who are too much fascinated by the idea that they can be the makers of their own fortunes at the expense of others.

This warning is much needed. And I want to say to those whose only desire for occult knowledge is that they may use it for their own selfish ends, that if they stand in the way of the Law that works for unselfishness in the new race, they will be destroyed again as they were destroyed in ancient Atlantis. And I do not mean that their souls will be destroyed, but that their lives will be cut short and their influence for evil nullified.

Do not be shocked when I tell you that there have been working in Europe during and before the present war “artificial elementals” that were created in the time of Atlantis. Those beings, for they have a force and a pseudo-individuality, have been used in this war by those (now reincarnated) who created them ages ago. They have drifted to their creators by the power of attraction.

One such creature was destroyed last July, and I assisted in its destruction.

At the time of the birth of a new race, will has great dynamics. Use your will with the Law, not against it.

Do you realize, you who put your desires above all things, that each of you is but a drop in the stream of souls? The drop that would isolate itself from the stream may be sucked up by the sun in the form of vapor and wait a long time before entering the stream again.

Now do not take any of this as applying to my Brother who wants to soften the blow for his native land. I want to soften the future of my native land, and that is why I am writing about the new race that is going to be born in America. But if I should learn, through counsel with my Brothers or through individual inspiration, that it was best that the new race should be born elsewhere, I would work with the same devotion to bring it into being in that other place. And so would my Brother. We who work with the Law put the welfare of the human race above our own individual loves. , All races are one race - the human race - and we work together as one.

April 10.

LETTER XIX

THE ROSE-VEILED STRANGER

One day the angel whom we call the Beautiful Being came to me leading another angel by the hand. Long association with this extraordinary being has taught me never to be surprised by anything it does. I accept its vagaries as expressions of a state of consciousness above and beyond my own, and much that I have learned during the last three years I owe to its whimsical but tender friendship for me.

As I explained in my former writing, the Beautiful Being - whom we call an angel for want of a better term - has never shared the physical life of earth. It is a being of another evolution than the human, and for that reason its views of human life are uniquely valuable.

It smiled as it came to me, leading by the hand another similar to itself but far less like mankind.

Introductions in the celestial regions are often very unconventional; but the Beautiful Being, who has observed the life of men, sometimes amuses me by delicious mimicry of the ways of mortals.

"Rose-veiled one," it now said to its angelic companion, "permit me to present to you my friend 'X', a Judge recently arrived from the planet Earth, who will consent I am sure to act as your cicerone over a section of territory where history is in the making. Ask him anything you will and he will answer you - if he can. He is still unlearned in the language of your distant star; but he can converse in thoughts with you whose

coarsest vesture is a body of thought.”

I expressed my pleasure at meeting the stranger, and asked if I should show it a battlefield.

“I do not understand the idea - battlefield,” it answered; “but I should like to see it.”

“You will understand far less when you have seen it,” smiled the Beautiful Being.

It chanced that day that the opposing forces in France and Belgium were unusually active in the beginning of the Spring campaign, and I led my two friends to a point where they could watch the combat.

“What are those beings down there sending back and forth?” asked the rose-veiled stranger.

“Those objects are known as shells,” I replied.

“Shells?” the stranger returned in bewilderment.

The Beautiful Being answered for me. “Shells are elaborately convoluted houses in which our brothers of the great deep live and disport themselves.”

The look of bewilderment increased on the face of the stranger.

“My friend forgets,” I said, “that you know not the language of earth, where a word, an arbitrary symbol for an idea, may stand for two ideas very dissimilar.”

“What are those objects that the beings down there are sending back and forth?” the stranger repeated.

I have to translate its form of speech into ordinary English to make it intelligible. Literally, its communication would stand like this: “Objects beings sending reciprocally?”

From my long association with angels, both those with astral bodies and those without, such a form of speech is intelligible to me; and I answered, translating my cumbrous native idiom into the simpler language of ideas:

“The objects that are hurled back and forth between those beings on the plain below us are explosive shells, with a marvelous power to shatter the forms of other objects and to scatter them in all directions.”

“Is it a form of play?” asked the rose-veiled stranger.

“It is not,” I answered. “It is war.” “War?”

All the horror that in my mind is associated with the word war was conveyed by my thought to the mind of the angelic visitor, and its rosy veil grew pale with pain.

“What is this strange emotion that I feel?” it asked. “Truly, were it not for your presence here, my friends, I should desire to go away.”

“The emotion that you feel,” I said, “is a sympathetic reflection of the emotions of war.” “And what is war?”

“A horrible passion felt mutually and indulged by two opposing aggregates of souls, by which they are enabled to overcome their natural pity and to destroy each other’s bodies in vast numbers.”

The veil of the stranger grew almost white. “And does God permit this horror?” it asked.

“He permits it on the planet Earth.”

Now the word God is not an adequate translation of the idea expressed in the angel’s question, but let it stand. The real idea is untranslatable by any one word in any language of earth. It was a composite of Love and Time and Purpose, raised to the highest power, an idea for which I can find no other word than God.

“Earth is a strange star!” the angel said.

“The inhabitants of this world have a common saying to that effect,” I answered. “It is a fragment of race wisdom, handed down from their remote ancestors, who, when they first tried to adjust their celestial consciousness to the baffling conditions of this star on which they had been placed for their education, observed to one another, ‘This is a strange world.’”

“And are they obliged to perpetrate this horror before us by the conditions of this planet?”

“No.”

“Then why do they do it?”

“From force of habit.”

“Then was it ever necessary?”

“In far away times,” I said, “men were more isolated than at present, there were fewer of them in incarnation, and a brilliant archangel who had their training in charge taught them to develop courage and resource, and to accentuate their egos, by struggling with each other, two by two.”

“But there are millions of beings down there!” the angel exclaimed. “And I see bodies fall by thousands!”

“That is what they call a great victory,” I said, “and one of their commanders gives to those who have slaughtered a vast number a little iron cross.”

“An iron cross? Why iron?”

“Iron is the metal of Mars,” I said, “Mars, their war-god.”

“And why a cross?”

“It is the symbol of their Christ.”

“The one who died down here to make men love one another?”

“The same,” I admitted.

“Truly, I agree with the remote ancestors of these people, from whom they have inherited the saying, ‘This is a strange world.’ “

“Would you like to approach nearer?” I asked.

The stranger hesitated, then said, with a patient smile:

“My friend,” glancing at the Beautiful Being, “wishes me to learn something of this star. I will approach nearer.”

We descended to perhaps a hundred feet above the lane which separated the enemies.

“Look !” exclaimed the stranger. “The souls are leaving their bodies! Is that the purpose of this business, to free souls from bondage?”

“Not directly,” I answered. “Each would like to hold the other in bondage; but being unable to do that to any great extent, they take the opposite way.”

The stranger looked more confused.

“My friend,” explained the Beautiful Being to me “came from a region where the Law of Opposites does not apply.”

“You have never taken me there in our wanderings!” I exclaimed.

“No, you are so attached to the Law of Opposites.”

This was an old jest between me and the Beautiful Being.

“Look!” the stranger interrupted me. “There is a soul coming toward us now.”

I went forward to greet the newcomer. He was a German officer.

“Welcome,” I said, but he seemed not to understand me. The face of his astral body was contorted, as if he had died in pain.

Now the Beautiful Being seems to know all the languages of earth; and though the purity of its nature is such that few on earth can understand it, yet when a soul leaves its body it can understand the speech of the Beautiful Being if there is anything in its nature that responds to the higher vibration which makes the life of that angel so intense and wonderful.

“Welcome,” said the Beautiful Being to the soul, in the accents of his native land.

“Where am I?” asked the bewildered soul. “You are in the region above the world,” the Beautiful Being answered.

“You mean . . . “

“I mean that your name will be in the list of the dead.”

“Then it has come!”

“Yes.”

“But I always feared death.”

“You see it is nothing to fear.”

“Where is the Kaiser?”

“At his headquarters.”

“Can I not report to him?”

“If you wish.”

We moved farther east - slowly, for the newly freed soul had not yet learned that distance is nothing.

We found the War-Lord seated beside a table looking at a map. His face was drawn and haggard.

“There,” I said to the stranger, “is the man who is believed, by the whole world outside his own country, to have caused this vast war.”

The stranger (and also the soul) approached and read the thoughts in the brain of the War-Lord. I give them as they were, disconnected, tragic in their import:

“The slaughter of our forces! God punish England! I am the Lord’s chosen! I cannot make a mistake! My generals have blundered. I will degrade - (the name of our newly-arrived charge). This defeat is his fault. I ordered him to take those trenches. He has lost our own instead. I cannot make a mistake! I am the Lord’s chosen!”

The Beautiful Being turned to the soul who had been a General.

“Do you wish to report yourself to the Kaiser?”

The eyes he turned to us were sad.

“I will not trouble the Kaiser,” he said.

A silence had fallen between us. After a little, the Beautiful Being turned to the General again, and its face was soft with pity.

“Can I not do something for you?” it asked.

“Will you take me to my mother, who died of grief for my only brother’s death, in the early days of the war? I am very tired. I want to see my old mother.”

The eyes of the rose-veiled stranger were luminous with wonder.

“Why, there is even love in this strange star!” it said.

April 11.

LETTER XX

ABOVE THE BATTLEFIELDS

Picture to yourself a battlefield, a long-stretching irregular double line of men and guns and horses and all the paraphernalia of war.

In the old days on earth I once gave some study to the theory and practice of war, but that labor had little value in preparing me to study this war. Not only did it take for granted conditions that no longer exist, but my point of observation then was an imaginary station on one side or the other of an imaginary field; now I am really here, there and everywhere. I read the thoughts of the commanders on both sides, I am with the men in the trenches sometimes half-buried in mud and water, I am riding with the cavalry, I go forward with the guns of the artillery, I go out and up with the escaping spirits of the dead - go with them into the hell of confusion that almost always swallows them for a time after they are violently thrust from their bodies.

Truly, "War is hell!" Have no glorious delusions to the contrary, you who dwell in the haunts of peace and babble of what you know not.

The horrors do not end when the guns cease firing. The dark and silent night of rain is full of souls in bewilderment and torment. Often one will grope his way hither and thither, seeking to find a trench-mate to whom he had become attached in the camaraderie of war - that sweet flower which grows upon an ugly stem. Often they live over and over again the rage and madness of the attack; they plunge an imaginary bayonet into the form of an imaginary foe; or, if a mass of them are together, and they generally are, they strike recklessly at anything before them, conscious always of an opposing force.

The General of whom I wrote in my last letter was a man of marked spiritual development; he soon broke away from the entanglements of matter; he was a devotee to whom his country was a god and his Emperor a hero to be followed with aspiration. But most men who die on the battlefields are common soldiers who fight because it is the will of the mass behind them. They generally go out into darkness for a time, and most of them wander in darkness and bewilderment for varying periods.

Some, on the contrary, are vividly conscious almost from the hour of death. These may attack the men of the opposing army while they sleep. The dreams of the battlefields are terrible in their intensity.

Sometimes again, for in the general confusion distinctions may be quite lost, souls that had believed themselves enemies cling together in the tragic yearning of the dark that separates the worlds of the "invisible." In their great need they do not know their former friends from their former enemies. Another pale flower that grows from the ugly stem of war!

The astral forms of men of low development are often found here in shocking distortion, their consciousness only a glimmer, and with no power of feeling anything but pain. No wonder the dreams of the unselfish lovers of humanity are full of horror during these dark nights of the world, for there are many noncombatants in all lands whose hours of sleep are given to a devoted labor for the souls that need help so horribly. There is one man whom you know who bears at this time a burden almost superhuman, and speaks of it to no one.

It is needless for me to say how you yourself spent the nights of many months, and when we bade you cease that labor it was only that you might have more strength for the labor of writing these pages at my dictation. A soul still held in the flesh cannot work all day and all night. That is burning the astral candle at both ends.

When you return to the countries now devastated by war, some of your friends will relate to you experiences similar to your own during these terrible months. They who can be used are called upon when the need is greatest, and the need is immense at this time.

Realize that those souls in the lower regions of the astral world are actually in space near the ground of the physical planet. Those who hang over the battlefields where they met their fate are still thrilled or horrified by the noise of the battle horns, they can still hear the shriek of shells and feel the shattering force of the explosions. Day in, day out these unfortunate earth-bound ones live over and over again the emotions of war, night after night they dread the morning when the sounds will begin again. They cannot get away. They are not free merely because their bodies are buried under a few feet of earth, or worse still left unburied.

I advise you to avoid for some years at least the actual scenes of these battles. You can go to Switzerland or to the more southern regions of France, but do not stay long in Northern France or Belgium, or in any other place that may be thus affected.

The thought world of England is just now troubled, but the layer of astral matter immediately above the earth is not full of the awful emanations of death. Astral forms go there from the more terrible region, but in order to go they must have themselves broken away from the immediate scene of their worst suffering.

It is easier to protect oneself from sad thought-forms than from the distracted astral entities and the "boiling" astral matter that lie above those battlefields.

Why, even the field of Waterloo before this war was not a pleasant place to spend the night. After a lapse of time you may briefly visit the scenes of these recent battles, for the sake of the practical experience; but do not go there just yet. The best place in Europe for a long period will be the mountains of Switzerland. You should spend much time there.

Do you remember telling me how, when a child, you used to see the forms of American Indians on the hills and in the valleys of your native State? They were those who many years before had walked those hills and valleys in the sunlight, and

who were still held in the tenuous matter above that region. The eyes of childhood are sometimes very clear. Above those battlefields of Europe the sensitive eye may see for many years the forms of those who will not be able to make their escape. And I do not mean akashic records. War is hell, and the hell does not end with the signing of peace papers.

That is one reason why we want you, and those others who believe in brotherhood, to carry that spirit of brotherhood among the nations that have been at war. You have no conception of the power of a quiet faith in a great and true idea. The man who really loves his fellows has a wider influence than his own immediate circle of friends. The atmosphere around him is permeated with that brotherly love, and sensitive souls can feel it.

Some day sail up the Rhine with that sentiment in your heart.

April 12.

LETTER XXI

A SOUL IN PURGATORY

Dare I talk to you of the purgatory to which the rage of battle conducts so many souls that only a little while before walked the earth as men, and went their daily round from house to office, loving their Wives and children and exchanging worldly commonplaces in the intervals of work, all unmindful that they were hourly drifting toward the Great Event? Yes, I dare.

We will follow one soul that I myself followed. His story I can reconstruct from memory, for every act of it is stamped upon my mind. No, I do not need brain-cells to remember with. Neither will you - when you have escaped the prison of your brain-cells.

The man was an officer in an English regiment and he was a bachelor. Outwardly he was much like other men, but his consciousness was different. He lived in a world of his own, for he was a reader and a thinker. He was not a very good man. Not all Englishmen are good even now when England is at war, you who bristle at any criticism of your beloved maternal island - you who write for me!

This man was not very good because there was so little love in his heart. He was not incapable of love, yet he was unable to awaken love in others, and so was soul-starved. But sometimes he was conscious of a great yearning, and when the yearning came he was impatient, and took a drink, or cursed his servant, or both. Sometimes when he was most impatient with the world and with himself, he went on a "spree."

The war began.

His natural impatience found something congenial in the hurry and noise of the expedition. He was glad to go.

He had known a German in London and had disliked him thoroughly. The German talked too much, and his loud tones jarred on the sensitive ears of the refined officer. As he led his men into battle he thought of this German. He felt that he was battling with him at last face to face, and the feeling gave him a thrill of satisfaction.

Hate had become an almost sensual luxury. The German had fascinated by his blustering personality a woman of rather coarse type to whom the officer had been impatiently attracted. He hated himself for the attraction, and he hated the German for frustrating it. We always hate those who frustrate the emotions we hate.

The officer was killed by a German bullet, in the early days of the war. Where? Oh, no matter where! There are those who might recognize the man, and I am not a betrayer of unwilling confidences. When I listen at the keyhole of life I never report too much of what I hear. I use my discretion.

I shall call this man my friend, for I was so much his friend that I have a right to claim him.

Before the battle in which my friend met death I had lingered near him, with a desire to soften the hard feelings in his heart. Those feelings are not usual among the soldiers of a particular section of the northern battle-line. To them fighting is a sort of glorified sport - or it was so last September.

My friend was an exception, and that is why I choose to write about him, that my assertion of his exceptional qualities may keep the reader from shuddering too much. I should not like my readers to feel that their friends went through a similar experience. You who hang above this page, my friend was not your friend. The experiences of your friends were less terrible. They were all better men than he, because you loved them, and this man was not good because he was not loved enough.

He met death by a rifle bullet. Then all became dark before him, and he was unconscious for a time.

He was awakened by the noise of a bursting shell.

"The battle has begun," he thought. "Damn that man! He should have awakened me at dawn."

He was among the men of his regiment. They seemed larger than usual, and blurred in outline. He rubbed his eyes.

"Hell and damnation! Who have they put in my place?" For he saw a minor officer who commanded where he had commanded

He turned away, then came back again. He would demand to know! He started toward the place where his superior officer should have been, some distance away, and found himself instantly there.

"What is the matter with me?" he thought. "Have I lost my mind?"

He saluted the officer, who paid no attention to him.

“Am I asleep?” he wondered.

He went up to a soldier who was loading a rifle and touched him on the arm. The soldier also paid no attention. He gripped the man’s arm. Still he paid no attention, but raised his rifle and fired.

My friend went toward two men who were talking together.

“Poor old ... !” he heard one of them say. “Shot through the heart! He was a good officer, though a surly fellow. I’m sorry he’s dead.”

The officer they spoke of was himself.

“Shot through the heart - a good officer - a surly fellow - dead!”

He knew. Knowledge sometimes comes more slowly. He was “dead.”

“Just my luck!” was his instinctive thought. Another shell burst behind him with a shattering report.

Suddenly he saw before him a face that rivetted his attention. It was a malignant, an insolent face. Then it changed into the face of his enemy, the German back in England whom he hated.

“So it’s you, is it?” he asked.

The spectre made no answer, but changed its shape again. This time it was like the woman whom my friend had hated himself for liking.

“You, too!” he said, impatiently.

Again the spectre changed countenance. It was like a servant whom my friend had cursed once too often, and who had left him the year before.

“Are you, too, dead?” he asked; but the face before him had now resumed its original appearance. It was merely a malignant, insolent face, resembling nobody in particular.

“What are you, anyway?” my friend demanded; but still there was no answer.

The eye of the spectre interested him - the left eye. As he gazed at it, the eye gradually enlarged until it seemed the size of a target in a shooting-gallery. The iris, of a peculiar greenish-blue, was in the very middle of the eye, so that the white showed all round. The black pupil stared at him with its concentrated malice - a pupil large as a saucer.

“Why do you do that?” demanded my friend; but the eye still made no answer.

Then it vanished.

A troop of hateful shades came in its place, ugly shades, some human, some sub-human. Another shell burst nearby, and the shades began to dance. They caught at him and whirled him around with them, around and around until he was dizzy. Then

suddenly they stopped, and each and all of them changed into the form of the German back in England whom my friend had hated. Then another group of mad beings mingled with them. They also changed suddenly - there were a dozen duplicates of the woman whom my friend had hated himself for liking, and they and the duplicates of his enemy caught one another's hands and kissed each other.

Sick, revolted, my friend wished himself away, and he was away. He was over among the soldiers of the German army across the plain. He heard the sounds of the language he disliked.

"What the devil!" he thought, and the devil stood before him, hoofs, horns and tail complete.

"Hadn't thought of me before, had you?" sneered the evil being.

My friend was hurt and bewildered by the appearance, for it looked, with all its unlovely accessories, so like himself.

"Will you, too, change form in a moment?" he asked.

"Oh, no! I change slowly. I only change as you change."

"What do you mean?"

"You only can change me."

"Change, then!" said my friend. But the demon remained as before.

"Change!" repeated my friend; but still the figure before him changed not at all.

"Then you lied when you said I could change you!"

"I said that I change slowly."

"What do you mean?"

"I only change as you change."

"And I have not changed, then?"

"It is my business to keep you from changing."

In company with his devil my friend now went through scenes which I refrain from describing, Goethe in the Walpurgis Night having done it so well before me. Reckless, desperate, he followed his leader until he was weary and exhausted. Days, weeks passed away, like a nightmare.

"Can I never get rid of you?" he asked his companion.

"Yes, you can get rid of me."

"How?"

"By getting rid of yourself."

"That's easier said than done."

"Yes, that's easier said than done."

Often they found themselves on the battlefield in the fighting line, or at the mess of the soldiers. The smell of the coffee and of cooking meats brought temporary satisfaction to my friend. He tried to drink from brandy flasks tilted to the mouths of men who could not see him or protest; he steeped himself in hungers and despairs. His companions were always changing themselves into the forms of the man he hated and the woman he loved. He witnessed their coarse love-making. Sometimes the simulacrum of the woman turned to him with a friendly word. He cursed her, but clung to her hand. But always she vanished when his mouth yearned to hers.

Sometimes in a great battle the rage of war awoke in him. He hurled himself at the men of the opposing army, as if he would take revenge upon them for all he was suffering. He struggled to tear the rifles from their hands, and when one of them passed out of the body he tried to awake him from the darkness and the sleep into which he was sinking; but never could he succeed in doing this. Never could he succeed in doing anything. His very existence was failure and futility and discouragement.

One day I came to him and touched him on the forehead.

"You are not like these others," he said, dully. "Where do you come from?"

"I came from a distance," I said. "Would you like to go with me?"

"Anywhere away from here," he assented.

"Do you want to be alone?"

"No. It is worst when I am alone."

"The worst is over," I said.

"What do you mean?"

"I mean that you have exhausted for the time the springs of your lower desires. You are weary and disgusted with the life you have led since you escaped from your body."

"That is a strange expression - escaped! It is only now that I long to escape."

"And it is I who will help you to escape from another layer of your prison, another skin of the onion that shuts you in."

"And why do you do this?"

"To spare you unnecessary fumbling to break the skin," I said. "Would you like to go to sleep?"

"I should like to rest a little."

While he slept I helped to loosen him further, and when he awoke into another and a freer world I was still with him.

"What would you like to see?" I asked. "Something beautiful," he answered, "something beautiful and pure."

“Would you care to witness a dance of elves?” I asked, smiling.

“A dance of elves? Are there really such things?”

“The universe contains innumerable forms of life and consciousness,” I said. “And you who believe in devils from experience can surely believe in elves.”

They came toward us as I spoke, lithe, tenuous forms, dancing with joy across the flowery spaces of the Elysian Fields. They swayed and circled around us, those beings pure as the air in which they moved, light as the happiness they exhaled, enduring as hope and lovelier than mortal dreams.

The shadows had all gone from my friend’s face, and he too seemed to taste joy, he too was light as air, and pure. He joined their dance and circled with them around me.

I tell you in a burst of confidence that I also have danced with elves. This companion and friend of the Beautiful Being has swum in the sea of universal life and floated on the wings of irresponsibility. He who knows too much of the world’s sorrow must sometimes lighten the load by knowing nothing but joy.

When the sylphs had gone to their more inviolable retreat, another shape came toward us.

“What would you like to see now?” I asked him.

“Can I see a person who still lives in England?” he asked, half shyly, yet with the winning confidence of souls who trust their own desires - the higher wisdom which comes with the purification of desire.

“Perhaps,” I said.

The form that came toward us was unfamiliar to me, but my friend recognized and welcomed it. A woman of intense and vital personality, yet with that purity of atmosphere without which no communion is possible in the region where we then were, was standing beside my friend.

“Let us sit together a little,” I said. “It will seem more homelike.”

The two beside me seemed happy in each other’s presence. “Sisterly-sweet hand in hand,” they sat together; and though I knew that one of them was only the simulacrum of a living woman, yet she also seemed real to me for the moment, for the kind sentiments of the heart are real, and in the region to which I had conducted my friend all sentiments are kind. No enemies are found there, and the woman he liked also liked him, or she could not have been there.

Soon I left them in each other’s company and went back to the labors of the battlefield; for there were others who needed me, and my friend was safe for the time.

After a while I shall help him onward to an experience still less restricted. We take an interest in those whom we have helped, and wish to help them further.

Why did I choose this man for my friendly ministrations, you are wondering; for as I described him in the beginning of this letter he was not an attractive character.

I tell you a little secret: It was because he was unattractive that I chose him. No one had ever loved him enough, and so he needed help more than others. Those who are loved are already helped by that love. As the Beautiful Being says, "Do you get my meaning, daughter of earth?"

Just now I live to serve mankind through the horrors of this war. Serve also by loving those who least attract your love. So shall you learn the way to the Path where walk the Masters of Compassion.

April 14.

LETTER XXII

PEACE PROPAGANDA

Were you shocked and grieved by what I told you of the futile struggle in that intermediate world between the bondage of dense matter and the freedom of purer regions? It is nothing to grieve about; it is nothing but the necessary transition stage. It lasts but a little while, a few days, a few years - what matter, in the endless leisure of eternity? You yourself have passed through it many times. All pass through it in going out to a freer life, though all do not suffer it consciously and lingeringly as my friend did. It is a nightmare, yes; but no nightmare lasts forever. Think of the joy and the freedom beyond! They are worth the boatman's penny.

It is true that I have not told you the most terrible things that are possible in this transition, have not told you the most terrible things that I have seen in my journeys round the battlefields. Those unwritten chapters are not necessary for the book which I dictate to teach brotherhood in place of separation, peace in place of war.

Would you know how you may do something to shorten this war, to hasten the coming of peace? Then listen!

You can personally hasten the coming of peace! Is the idea startling? When I say "you," I mean others, too, all those who are weary of war, and of hate, the mother of war.

Has anyone injured you in the struggle of life? - for life is a kind of war.

Go out in thought to those whose desires have clashed with your desires, those who have hurt you or hated you. Go to them one by one - not several at a time in this exercise, and one by one try to understand them. See yourself with their eyes; feel toward yourself with their hearts. If they still hate you, you may hate yourself at first in sympathy with them. But remaining there in sympathy with them, you will gradually feel their hard thoughts of you change; gradually begin to be friends with yourself through them.

This I am advising you to do is not a form of "black magic," because the object is

unselfish. You are making a beginning toward softening the enmities of the world. But I warn you against using this practice to win the regard of anyone whom you love selfishly or with passion, because the reaction would bring about a very undesirable condition of disharmony.

When you have thus understood and forgiven all your personal enemies, enter the souls of the warring nations. Understand them also by sympathy, and soften their hearts. Though this is a much easier thing to attempt than the other, the results may seem incommensurable with the effort. But, small and great, you are all part of the Whole.

And this brings me to the idea of race spirits, race entities; for every race has its guardian being - a composite being, yet self-conscious as separate, in a way you could hardly understand.

Have you not noticed the effect on yourself of passing from country to country? Have your feelings - has your consciousness not changed almost at the frontier? Do you remember the shock you once had on setting foot for the first time in a certain foreign land?

The race spirits seem no larger to themselves and among themselves than you humans do among your friends and acquaintances. Size is relative. Heretofore I have spoken of the races as organs in the body of humanity. In speaking of them now as separate beings I am not contradicting myself. What reason have you for assuming that the organs of your body may not each be animated by a more or less separate consciousness? Your cells exist in your organs, your organs exist in your body, you exist in your race, your race exists in the body of humanity on earth, the entity of the earth exists in the democracy of planetary spirits in the solar system, the solar system exists as one in the company of its fellows in the greater democracy of the Cosmos.

A small blood-clot on the brain could seriously hamper the working of your cosmos.

So you see there is nothing preposterous in my saying that you can hasten infinitesimally the peace between the race spirits by forgiving and making peace with your personal enemies, especially if they belong to races on the other side of this war.

The small is not so unimportant and the great is not so important as you have the habit of supposing. Yes, you personally - and all of you - can hasten the coming of peace.

April 16.

LETTER XXIII

THE MYSTERY OF DESIRE

I have written about the hunger and thirst of disembodied men in the astral world, and I have written about the evil astral beings who brought about this war to satisfy their malice. They too are hungry beings and the war has given them food. Do you know what they live on? They may live long on blood and the exhalations of slaughter. I have seen them by myriads hovering over a battlefield, gorging themselves on the blood that dripped from the wounds of suffering men and from dead men.

The leaving of the dead unburied has also satisfied their hunger. Vampire entities came up from Hungary and from other countries and fed on the living. The awful weariness of war opened a door through which they might pass to the life forces they craved.

“Blood is a peculiar fluid,” as Goethe said. The life of an evil entity may be renewed for another long period of existence if he can have blood enough.

If you stop eating the carcasses of dead animals, you will cease to feed certain evil entities in yourselves. It is not merely for reasons of sentiment that the pupils of the great Masters are advised to refrain from animal food. You are told that meat-eating feeds the passional nature. What is the passional nature but the hungry nature that longs to feed on something not itself? So long as you eat meat habitually you will never be quite free from the influence of entities who live on the blood and the other properties of meat. Eat purely, and by and by you will find yourselves thinking purely and desiring purely.

I do not tell you to kill out all desire this afternoon, for desire is the dynamics with which you work for even the ideal; but kill out desire for blood and for the flesh of dead animals, and all sorts of other desires which serve no necessary purpose in your evolution will expire.

A lot of nonsense is talked about desire. You desire to develop spiritually, you desire to do the work of the Masters; you are not merely led along like a lamb to do the work of the Masters. There is desire and desire. If it seems “desirable” that you shorten the road to conscious union with the All, you will desire that union probably; you are not likely to drift into it.

I am not talking about the violent desires of ambition. You need not be ambitious for occult development. In fact, if you are too ambitious for occult development you will be in danger of becoming a black magician. But you can quietly “desire” even union with God.

All action on this plane springs from desire of some sort, and it has been said that desire and will are the same. Perhaps they are. It has also been said that desire relates to the temporary, and that will is some kind of superior motive force; but I

should be inclined to say that will in its more dignified phases was merely desire for a higher thing - that is, if I wanted to separate the two.

Music may be sublime and music may be ragtime; it is still music. The force of the wind may fan the flame that burns your house, or it may fill the sails of the boat that takes you across the sea to your soul's desire. It is still the same wind.

You may even desire to desire the higher things. You may will to will with the Law instead of against it. Is that not desire, too?

In advising you not to feed by blood sacrifices the elemental forces in yourself which crave that impure food, I am not inviting you to kill out desire. You will have to desire to purify your system from the material of dead animals before you will wilfully cease to feed on them. The evil in you, the hungry fiery selfish nature, sucks up the blood that passes your lips somewhat as the evil beings above the battlefields suck up the blood that flows from the wounds of the fallen. If you have no further use for these creatures, you can cease to feed them with blood.

You will never kill out your emotional nature by ceasing to eat meat. You will merely purify it. The whole soul-world is a world of emotion, and the pure beings of the elements are very emotional, but they do not feed on blood.

Yes, mind is higher than emotion, it is beyond emotion. You can have mind without emotion, and you can have emotion without mind to any great degree, as in the animals; but man is made of both. He is dependent on his middle register, his soul-desire nature, in order to work in the soul world as a growing entity there. When you reach the highest heaven you will be living in thought with only so much of the desire nature as you have raised with you by memory and assimilation. You can raise more of soul-dynamics into the highest region if you do not clog your feet on the road by desire for bloody food. Leave that to the demons who gorge themselves on the battlefields.

During the reign of brotherhood which I am trying to help in bringing about, the race will subsist on a pure diet. Even now there is a tendency toward the elimination of dead animals from the dietary.

The desires of the new race will have to be purified, their emotions raised and intensified. The emotions of a man are much more intense than the emotions of a lion. The emotions of a god are cosmic.

April 16.

LETTER XXIV

THE SCALES OF JUSTICE

Lest anyone should think that in working for brotherhood I am either knowingly or inadvertently striving to bring about a state of lax acquiescence in the wrongs committed by my fellowmen, by my brothers, I want to talk about justice.

As one who has been a so-called Judge in a court of justice, I have had some little experience in the practical working out of a balance between mercy and severity. Justice is one of the gods that I have always placed high in my personal pantheon, and never in handing down a decision did I, through weakness or sentimentality, hamper the right of the good in order to pander to the wrong of evil. I have given mild judgments when most good seemed to be promised that way; I have given severe judgments when it seemed to me that evil would be best curbed that way.

Much nonsense has been talked and written about universal brotherhood, as about most of the other ideals of mankind. Universal brotherhood is not universal acquiescence in evil; it is universal acceptance of the ideal of good. And you will never have a brotherhood worthy of the name until you raise, not lower, the standard of justice.

Justice is balance, justice is equilibrium between forces, justice is poise. It is because I hope to see a more poised humanity that I am urging men to concentrate upon love instead of upon hate.

Since I have been stationed in Europe and in the immediate neighborhood of the western battlefields, I have helped hundreds of souls to help themselves through the terrible astral conditions into which a sudden and premature dropping of their physical bodies has precipitated them; but in no case have I tried to upset the balance between cause and effect by helping a soul to a freedom for which it was not prepared. I have let men suffer when I could have shortened their suffering; I have let many souls work out in the astral world the slow battle with their lower desires, because I knew that if they were plucked from the tree of pain before they were ripe, they would have to go through it all anyway and battle harder in another life with those very forces which now by their suffering they were severing in the region where - from the very limitation of satisfactions - elementary desires are more easily starved out than on the earth.

There was in one of the armies a very cruel officer who was hated by his men. He came out here and many of the men came out here, and I made no attempt to protect him from their reproaches, because he needed to learn that injustice deserves reproach. On earth their mouths had been stopped by army discipline, but out here he had to realize how much he had wronged them. He could never have realized it in any other way. Had I preached to him he would have told me to mind my own business. The law of justice does not preach. It demonstrates. He had to endure the demonstration of his own injustice through the dark and reproachful shadows by

which he was long surrounded. And I may say in passing that he is still surrounded by them. I have made no effort to help him. Perhaps I could have done so; but such determined opposition on my part to the law of justice might have let him go forward into his own selfish heaven with such a load of injustice on his soul that in his next earthly life he would have been crushed by it. The resentment of these men was very deep, and while I might have softened it for their sake - not his - I let it work itself out.

Had there been no one else needing my help and deserving it more, I might have spent a long time with these men and yet made little impression. I did exactly as I should have done on earth had such a case come before me, and I believe that I did right.

Whenever I see a soul afflicted by the unjust judgments of others I seek to set the balance true, as I should have done on earth; but I am not here to upset the law of cause and effect. When I can help, I help; but I am more useful in preventing the setting up of evil causes than I could ever be in deflecting the legitimate course of effects.

When I urge men to help the Masters in holding back the awful karma of Germany, I am not talking sentimentally. I am talking as a just judge. The German people have been deceived by their leaders and have followed blindly a course they have not understood. Collectively they are responsible to the other races, but individually they are not responsible in the same degree; for they have been themselves deceived, and they do not know that their cause of national aggression is unjust and of satanic origin.

It is the hope of those Teachers who can watch from the outside and above, that the docile German people should not be forever hated by the world because the arrogant war-party has hurled them at their neighbors. I am not condoning the unlovely traits in the German character, or in the character of any other people; but of all the races engaged in this gigantic struggle, the German race knows least about the causes that hurled it forward. A spoon-fed press and the penalties of Lèse-majesté have kept them from knowing anything which could have made them less flexible instruments in the hands of their leaders.

The karma of those whose headstrong and arrogant policy precipitated this war is an individual karma, and it will have to be worked out by individual suffering and so-called punishment; but the karma of the great mass of the German people is a race karma. They have let themselves be led on to their own defeat. Think how the very law of reaction will throw the light of popular and democratic investigation into the darkest nooks and crannies of the German nation and government after this war. Those who have been deceived to their hurt will demand to be deceived no more. In twenty years the life of the German government will be as open as that of the United States. The so-called "muck-raker" will arise with a lantern on his hat.

Also by the law of reaction England will be shaken out of her sluggishness that has filled her shops with the wares of other countries because she was too slack to make her own.

By that same law a demand will arise for an uncorrupt political machine in France. One or two things have happened in France which she prefers for the moment to keep to herself.

The great shock of this war will cause each nation to examine itself more closely, to look into its own motives, to see wherein it fails to come up to the very exigent standard demanded by the New Time.

Look also for changes in Russia, and Austria will be but another name for change.

Justice will advance many paces by reason of the great injustice of this war. The Law of Opposites again! Most things can be explained by that law.

In writing about the reign of brotherhood which I hope to see established in the world, I am not laboring under the delusion that an impossible Utopia is about to be ushered in with a blare of trumpets. I am not recording a prophecy that the Kingdom of Heaven is immediately at hand. The human race is not ready for the Kingdom of Heaven, and will not be ready for a long time; but if one person in ten can be made to realize that brotherhood is an ideal to be striven for, they can leaven the other nine-tenths and make the loaf of human society much lighter and more palatable than it is at present. The loaf will not become fruit-cake all at once. That is too much to expect of the next race; but if you can carry the memory of this prophecy through a sufficient number of births and deaths, you may see a very sweet loaf come from the planetary oven when the second race following, the Seventh, is brought forth into the light of the sun.

April 17.

LETTER XXV FOR LOVE'S SAKE

SO serious and philosophical have been my last few letters, that I should like to revel in romance.

Have you thought of the hard life of the war-nurses and wondered from whence they gather the strength for their daily and nightly labors? Love is the source of the almost superhuman endurance of many of the women who seem to their charges like angels of light and healing.

One nurse whom we will call Mary, for she is a type of the virgin-mother of hearts, has gone out into heaven a hundred times in the souls of those she has tended. "Will that love not guard her on earth through the whole course of her life and follow her also into the heaven world beyond? Be sure it will.

Mary is neither a scholar nor a poet. You would not have dreamed of inviting her to a reception had her path ever crossed yours; but Mary is not unfit for the society of angels and gods would not scorn to have her in their company.

She was just an ordinary nurse before she became a war-nurse, and before the white fire of love touched her personality and burned it up as a sacrifice on the altar of her country's need.

She was a very pretty nurse and in her hours of leisure once wore stylish hats and revelled in laces and furbelows; for the love of beauty and daintiness often nests in a heart that is capable of heroism.

When the war broke out Mary was engaged to be married to a soldier. Mary went to the front and he also went to the front; but neither of them knew where the other was for many, many days.

Every man who was brought to her severely wounded Mary nursed as if he had been the absent friend of her heart, and many a life she saved by her tender care and by the atmosphere of hope which radiated from her as fragrance from a rose.

"If he should be wounded," she said to herself, "some of the girls will care for him as I care for these men."

Mary was not jealous lest another should have the privilege of nursing the man she loved, and lest in his heart should blossom the flower of thankfulness for another than herself. Mary had not much time to think about herself; her thoughts were too busy with others.

It may have been because she was not jealous nor over-watchful for her property in her lover, that when he was wounded he was really brought to the hospital where she served so faithfully. Of course he was given to Mary to nurse - it could not have been otherwise, and he was very seriously wounded. When the operation was performed by which the doctors hoped to save his life, it was Mary who stood by and assisted. She did not faint nor cry out even when they cut his broken arm away, the arm on which she had dreamed she might lean for the rest of her earthly life. Mary was thinking about his mother and was glad that she was not there to see what she herself saw. During many of the hours when Mary might have slept, she was writing to the mother - writing brave letters wherein she sought to veil the fear that was in her own heart.

Tom - we will call him Tom because that was not his name - Tom had never been able to believe in any life beyond the earth life, and as Mary watched his strength grow less she prayed all day and most of the night that something might happen to make Tom believe in heaven and angels. The exigencies of war had left him long on the battlefield after the shell had shattered his right arm, and his wound had been infected before the operation by which the doctors sought to save him for England and for Mary.

Tom knew that he might have to leave the world. Mary would not keep the overwhelming possibility from him, though she still kept it from his mother; for she hoped that in the hours or days which might be all that remained for him in the sunshine of the upper world something might happen, some miracle of thought or of love, which should open his eyes to what she called the Truth.

Each day I spent a little time in the long white room in which Tom lay; but even if he could have seen me, I might not have been much comfort to him, and I cannot speak to any ears except those trained to listen for unusual sounds.

I sympathized with Mary. Having convinced so many souls of the truth of immortality through a former writing of mine, I wanted to convince one more - for Mary's sake; because I knew that if Tom should go out of life firmly believing that death was the end of him, it might really be the end of him for a long time.

In my perplexity I sought the Beautiful Being for advice. That angel's knowledge compared to mine is like an arc-light beside a tallow dip.

Together we went back to the hospital where Mary sat talking with Tom about the future life, about God and Christ and angels. She had many soldiers under her charge; but the other nurses worked a little harder to give her more time with Tom, for all the world loves a lover - especially in the horrors of war-time.

"It isn't that I do not want to believe," he was saying to Mary, "it's that I just can't. If I could see with my own eyes an angel, or someone that I knew was dead, it would be different. But how could I see such a thing?"

The Beautiful Being drew nearer, smiling, and waved its gauzy veil before the eyes of the dying man; but he could not see.

The Beautiful Being wove a glamor of light around him, and sang as only angels can; but Tom could still neither see nor hear.

"I think you will have to 'materialize'," the Beautiful Being said to me, with a whimsical smile. "Those eyes are stopped with matter, and cannot see anything finer than matter."

I was not attracted by the suggestion, but my incomprehensible friend followed it up.

"In that bed yonder," it said, "is one of those mortals who are called natural mediums, natural materializing mediums, because their tenuous bodies are so loosely held by the physical that they are easily detached and borrowed from. Now materialize yourself and let Tom see something which he will take for an angel."

"I am no angel," I said, "and the eyes of a dying atheist would never mistake me for one."

"Try it, and see," said the Beautiful Being, pointing to a man in a neighboring bed, who was the "medium" in question.

I looked at the man and read around him the story of his life. He was a coarse fellow,

a saloon-keeper, and another familiar compound-word would have fitted him like a glove.

“Clothe myself in that man’s etheric body!” I said in disgust. “I would not touch him with a ten-foot pole!”

“How dainty-fingered you are!” said the Beautiful Being. “Did I not know you so well, I could almost believe you self-righteous.”

“Call me what you like,” I replied, “but I will not do phenomena with that body.”

The Beautiful Being laughed.

“It would be so easy,” it said, as if to itself, “so easy and so convincing.”

The angel moved toward the sleeping saloon-keeper (I had almost written the harsher compound), and gradually from his side there issued a vaporous stream. From force of earthly habit I rubbed my eyes, for I could not believe that I saw aright. The pure and exquisite angel was clothing itself in the unhealthy emanations of the sleeping medium, and in the space of twenty ticks of the clock on the wall it passed, fully materialized, with a speaking throat, to the foot of Tom’s bed.

He sat up, in the surprise and shock of the vision.

“What are you?” he asked, hoarsely.

“I am an angel,” said the Beautiful Being, truly, “and I have come to prove to you that miracles can happen, and to assure you that when you leave your body behind on the morrow I shall meet you on the other side of the change.”

Mary could also hear and see, and she fell on her knees with a little sob of joy and wonder; for she had never seen an angel, though her faith was strong enough to remove mountains.

“Then it is really true!” Tom gasped. “I shall not die with my body. And how wonderful you are!”

For the Beautiful Being had performed the transformation so well that it preserved in its borrowed body all the glory and amazing loveliness of that form which charms the hosts of the unseen world.

“I no longer doubt,” said Tom. “I believe, and I die happy.”

“I shall not forget to meet you when you come out,” smiled my friend. “Good-bye now, for a little while. I leave you with Mary, who is also a kind of angel.”

Slowly the borrowed shape retreated towards the body of the sleeping saloon-keeper, and after a moment my friend stood beside me, clothed in its own pure form; but on its shoulders and feet were dark stains that looked like mud.

“They will soon blow away in the fresh air outside,” smiled the Beautiful Being. “And was it not worthwhile to convince that soul of its own immortality?”

We passed out under the stars, but the scene left an indelible impression on my

consciousness. And I shall often remember when I feel self-righteous, how the purest being I ever knew wore the soiled garment of a vulgar saloon-keeper, which left stains on its dainty shoulders and its shining feet - how it dipped itself for the first time in the filth of the world, for love's sake.

April 17.

LETTER XXVI

A MASTER OF MIND

Tonight, the seventeenth of April, nineteen hundred and fifteen, there passed along the battle line of one of the nations at war a great spiritual being, a being whose body is mind and who works through the mind alone.

The hour had come when a certain number of those who had fought bravely for their ill-starred country might know that their cause was hopelessly lost. A few only might know tonight; but their knowledge will spread, and with spreading knowledge will come a change of spirit. It is disheartening to fight on for a lost cause. It takes a peculiar quality of devotion, a rare quality of devotion.

What will come from the visit of that celestial being, you wonder? Wait and see. I rarely permit myself to prophesy. I only figure out the probable result of causes known to me. You can do the same, if you let reason take the place of predilection. To judge clearly of the effects of a given cause, the mind must be unbiased by desire; it must be as cold as a mathematical calculation. It is by this celestial algebra that Masters look ahead.

When you get in symbols or pictures the answers to questions propounded to your Higher Self, it is by this profounder mathematics that the interior one prepares its answer. It knows causes that are unknown to you, and from these causes can foretell effects with a degree of accuracy almost as great as that of an astronomer foretelling an eclipse. Almost, I say, not quite; for in dealing with human affairs even the greatest Masters must take into consideration an erratic element, the free will in human beings. That, too, may be guessed; but it is guessing, nevertheless. A sudden uprush of free and erratic will, and a new cause is set up, and the calculation must be made afresh.

There is a certain charm in dealing with the erratic element of will. Perhaps that is why some persons find cats more fascinating than dogs. A cat is a willful erratic animal; so are many men.

The great being who passed this night along the battle line has been watching the course of earthly events for a considerable time. He is one of those who serve the planetary spirit of the earth by carrying certain ideas around the earth when the time has come for them to play their part in history. I cannot tell you many details about the life of this being, for I know only a few facts concerning him. He is so far superior

to me that my possible comprehension of him is limited. He may once have been man, I think so; but of that I am not even sure.

I have been told that it was he who first impressed upon a small but courageous section of the American people the conviction that the time had come when human slavery in America should cease; that it was he who inspired Columbus with the idea that he could find land by sailing west, though in the latter case he was not able to force through into the mind of his instrument the great fact that an immense and independent continent lay off there beyond the western sea, and between it and another sea whose waters washed the eastern shores of Asia. Again, I have been told that it was this being who was instrumental in revealing the knowledge of electricity to mankind.

Can you imagine the life of such a being? Can you extend your consciousness so as to touch his? I am frank enough to say that it is difficult even for me, who have been able to remember so much of my own long past, and to work out so many of the probable effects of the causes which I myself set up in the far past, effects which will shape my future lives on earth.

Imagine an independent entity of vivid life, yet without a physical or even an astral body, a being of thought whose lowest medium is thought, who influences his chosen instruments by contact with their naked minds. What personal wishes can such a being have? What ambitions can he have? The lower and limiting word ambition seems grotesque as characterizing the motive force of such a being.

He has a name among us, but I am not permitted to tell you the name. It has a great mantramic value, that name, and if you should repeat it too often it might raise your own consciousness, and the vibration of yourself, to a height which would make it extremely difficult for you to keep your hold on that physical body, without which you cannot do certain work that it is your privilege and duty to perform at this stage of your evolution.

There is a certain initiation which the pupils of the great Masters take under the guidance of this being; but those who take that initiation retire permanently from the everyday life of men. They get into the centre of causes, which makes them so dynamic - which makes their personality and their thoughts so forceful - that for the sake of the world itself they must not come too close to it; because all things work by cyclic law, and to hasten too much the evolution of humanity would be dangerous to humanity. It can only go safely at a certain rate of speed. Above that speed it is likely to meet with accident.

I know exactly the stage that I myself must reach before I can take the initiation which is presided over by this being. When I have reached that stage I shall not be able to come and write through your hand, unless you raise yourself a corresponding degree above your present consciousness, because to do so might dangerously accelerate your own rate of growth.

Since coming out here I have learned much about those beings who have in charge the higher evolution of mankind. Their development would be quite incomprehensible to the mass of even enlightened men at the present time.

They are and must be very lonely beings, though they too have their peers and fellow-workers. Can you imagine remaining alone a hundred or a thousand or ten thousand years, yet all the time extremely active in mind, following with your thought the course of an evolution which you yourself have long left behind in your own growth, following it with the mind alone, because the emotional nature you have also left behind, and doing all this not for any personal reward but because it is a labor in accordance with the great law of a Being still above and beyond yourself?

Obedience is taught in certain schools, not in an effort to control the pupil in the interest of the Master, but that the pupil may thus take his first steps on the path which leads to obedience to the Cosmic Will. On that path he will have to go an immense distance before he can be trusted to do such work as is being done by the being who passed this night along the battle-line of one of the opposing armies, shedding the light of his thought and the certainty of his purpose into a few minds whose receptivity made possible their grasping what he gave.

Do not weary on the path, you who are taking the first and easiest steps of the journey that shall one day lead you to the Masters! The path is indeed steep, and as one inspired writer said, it leads uphill all the way; but there are stages at which the traveller may pause and enjoy the prospect. I seem to have reached such a stage myself, and though I am always working now, yet I enjoy my work.

The awful battle that some of us fought with the elemental beings is now over. The worst calamity that could have befallen mankind is happily averted. The labor of the present is light compared with the labor of that struggle. If the world could realize what it owes to the Masters whom most men regard as myths! But such Teachers do not work for gratitude nor for reward.

Follow you in their footsteps, for it is the only road that can lead mankind above the awful calamities that threatened recently to engulf mankind. (I am not referring to a mere German victory.)

It is wise to keep from the knowledge of men in general the great evolutionary facts which govern the life of the planet. A mind must be lifted above the small circle of everyday interests before it could endure such knowledge.

You all use words without realizing their meaning. You talk of guardian angels; you talk of hell and purgatory, and of vicarious atonement, and of sacraments. Sacraments! I could tell you of a sacrament that is verily an eating of the body and a drinking of the blood of God; but I refrain lest you should tell the world, and if you should tell the world the evil forces of the world would destroy you.

But I am coming now perilously near the things that may not be spoken, so I will wish you a good-night - a good-night indeed - and go back to my labors, in the rear

of that being of light who passed along the battlefields this evening.

April 17.

LETTER XXVII

INVISIBLE ENEMIES

You may have wondered why the elemental beings that as I have told you precipitated the great war were so malicious at this time, why they hurled themselves upon mankind with such overwhelming force. There is no reason why you should not know something of these causes, having seen so much of their effects.

The saying that man has made more material progress in the last hundred years than in the preceding two thousand, has become a mere newspaper commonplace. It is because he has not made a corresponding moral progress that the evil elemental beings, who fear for their rule in their own kingdom, could come so near to succeeding in their attacks upon the human race.

It is not merely in material ways that man has progressed with such amazing rapidity, for some of his inventions and discoveries touch the invisible regions. The doors of man's mind are opening on the untracked spaces of aether in which these beings live. Man is chaining the elements, and to chain the elements may be to chain the elementals. One man in America has come so near to a great and dangerous secret that his eyes have had to be veiled by those who fear for man's too rapid progress.

Occult societies dot the world. In other days these societies were really secret, and no one had access to their knowledge until after tests were passed which proved fitness for further study and further secrets. But the doors of the unseen have been besieged by an army of intellectual enthusiasts who have not passed those tests. Curiosity demands to know that which only the nobility of the spirit was once trusted with. Democracy has spread even into the occult orders, and sacred mysteries have been published broadcast by those who put no curb upon their personal ambitions. The hosts of the unseen world have themselves suffered invasion.

Now the hosts of the unseen will obey a great soul that they know to be more powerful than themselves. They run like docile children at his call, and they go at his command as a dog goes. But the unseen hosts are very jealous of their freedom, and they will yield it only to one whose superiority is manifest to them. Many - yes, most - of those who are now seeking to open the doors of that region are unfit to command there; because he only can command the unseen forces outside who can command the unseen forces inside himself.

In a former letter I spoke of the danger of black magic in America; but the danger is everywhere. And what is black magic? It may be briefly defined as a use for selfish purposes of those very forces of the unseen world. Not until a man has advanced

beyond himself will the invisible forces serve him long without rebellion.

Pick up a common newspaper, and you will see the advertisements of men and women who promise for a fee to bring about results which can only be brought about by using those invisibles. What blasphemy! What presumption! If these advertisers could make good their claims, they would be more dangerous than typhus fever. Such advertisements arouse all the curiosity and ambition and fiery selfishness latent in the heart of the ignorant. These untrained dabblers in the mysteries attempt to do things which an Adept would never dream of doing, for most of their efforts have for purpose some attack upon the free will of others; they seek to influence the desires and the judgment of others in the narrow and personal interest of those who pay them to set the forces in operation. Would you let a child loose in a gunpowder factory with a box of matches in his hand? That is what has been done in the last few years all over the western world.

No wonder the invisible beings have rebelled. They will follow a Master, but they resent the interference of a fool.

It is not the fools they fear, however. The men they fear are the great scientists. Man's progress in science has been such that he must purify his motives, or he will be destroyed.

That is one reason why I am preaching brotherhood, in an attempt to save men from their own folly. Once let the feeling for brotherhood become general, and these experiments with unknown forces would be less dangerous. Mankind as a mass might work with the power of a White Master, whose motives are always unselfish.

The great scientists come nearer than anybody else to that pure working with mind for mind's own sake, which I recently described in writing of a great being, a great Initiator, who serves the world by influencing along the line of evolutionary law the thoughts of certain men who are the chosen instruments of evolution.

How little men know of the unseen world surrounding them!

I recently followed you into a lecture room in New York that was even more crowded with invisible beings than with men and women. Your restlessness there had cause, as you well knew. The purpose of that meeting was to form a nucleus of a society of curiosity-seekers for investigating the unseen, for necromancy and ceremonial magic. Madness of madness! I heard one man express the determination that the proposed society should not, like the Society for Psychical Research, close its doors to the outside world; but that the society should invite all who were interested in the investigation of the unseen, including the newspaper reporters. A press agent for the occult!

Let me describe a few of the auditors who were invisible to any in the room except one person:

A long lean hungry being with the face of a gargoyle and the stomach of an unfed

leech yearned over the gathering. He was almost affectionate in his interest in one of the speakers.

Another, bloated and lethargic, had already fed himself since entering the room.

Another, frightened and tortured, was seeking an exit; but could not get outside the desire-aura of one of the participants in that orgy of curiosity.

Another, powerful and malignant, moved from place to place, selecting his future victims. He will be present at the meetings of the society. He will try to keep it alive, for he knows of a fascinating possibility which I shall not record here.

Why do you go to such places?

April 18.

LETTER XXVIII

THE GLORY OF WAR

I have written of the beauty of peace; but I now want to write of the glory of war, for war has its glories. Anything that arouses man to the highest pitch of enthusiasm is glorious; for what is glory but a radiation of light, a burst of that life which is the Sun in man?

I regret this war. The suffering, the agony, the torment that I have seen and have felt through sympathy, have left their marks upon me; but had I remained in the safety of the neutral stars I should have missed the glory of the fight.

Man had grown too tame, without acquiring the virtues of tameness; but this war has served the purpose of the gods by hurling man into the primitive, the savage, where life had its roots, but from which the sap flows that will blossom later in such a faith as the world has never seen.

Suffering and joy are forever opposite and equal. Man may rest for a time in the neutral condition of a well-fed half-consciousness; but when the extremes of suffering and joy come to him, he is no longer half-conscious, but awake and alive, and glory shines round him.

Could the Masters have prevented this war? They could have retarded it; but the causes were present in the hearts of men, in the invisible forces within them as well as outside them, and to have further delayed the explosion would have served no planetary purpose.

The men who are not dead are more alive than they were twelve months ago, and even the so-called dead are living-dead.

We pushed back the forces of evil, yes; but that was a part of the struggle, that was the struggle in our world.

Let me tell you the story of one man whom I knew in the days of peace. He was well-

fed and half-asleep with prosperity, he prattled mild commonplaces about life, and ethics, and the duties of a citizen; but what did he really know of life, or of ethics, or of the duties of a citizen?

We will call him Johnson. He has been in this war some months, a fighter for England, and the integrity of England; and now when he speaks of life his speech has meaning, because life to him now is the opposite and mate of death. He feels enthusiasm for it, the glory of it shines round him.

Johnson had a son, an only child. Fathers will know what I mean.

In the great retreat in which Johnson was one of the leaders his son fell before his eyes - wounded but not dead. For one swift heartbeat the father turned to his boy . . . then he went on with his command that otherwise would have been leaderless, leaving his only child to the tender mercies of an army drunk with the pitiless glory of conquerors.

Johnson will never again prattle commonplaces about life. He has learned the meaning of death, and of tortured uncertainty far worse than death.

April 20.

(This letter was left unfinished - for no reason apparent to me. - Editor.)

LETTER XXIX

A FRIEND OF "X"

A man died yesterday with your name in his thoughts.

No, he was not a friend of yours, but someone you have never seen. Back in England last year he read the former book which I wrote through your hand, and was intensely interested in it. For months he wanted to meet you, but being a modest man he waited.

Then the war broke out, and he went with the army to Belgium.

Day and night since the first fighting he has been meditating the facts and possibilities of that book. Is there a future life continuous with that of earth? Can a man return as I claimed to return, and can he give to a woman still in the land of the living a record of his experiences among the dead? Had I really seen the things I reported, and did I go to the pattern world and the heaven world, where I saw the Saviour of men with a lamb on his arm, etc., etc.?

One thing this man never questioned, and that was the sincerity of the scribe. Of that he was convinced by instinct and by a kind of Anglo-Saxon chivalry difficult for the men of some races to understand.

He was always talking to his trench-mates about the future life. He would sit smoking his pipe in silence and gazing off into space, and when other soldiers asked

him what he was thinking of so busily, he would often say: "I am thinking of a book I read last summer, and wondering if it was true." When they asked him what book he referred to, he would tell them about the 'Letters of a Living Dead Man', and quote to them whole sentences from it, and give them the outlines of its stories, and explain to them the philosophical propositions scattered through the book. Whole evenings have been taken up with these discussions.

You have not been to the wars, either as a soldier or as a nurse; but you have been to the wars.

It was a curious coincidence that that book should have been published only a few months before the greatest taking-off of human souls in the history of the world. Had you thought of that? I had not, until the Teacher pointed it out to me.

There was one question which particularly interested our friend who died yesterday with your name in his thoughts: the question whether, if he should go out of life at the hands of the enemy, he could prepare such a "little home in heaven" as we wrote about, for a girl whom he loved back in England; and if he should prepare it and wait for her, whether she would be true to him after his death, and meet him there in a few years, and dwell with him in the little home.

This young man had read certain writings of an American mystic on the theory of counterpartal souls, and he believed that in the girl back in England he had found his counterpartal soul, as I hinted of the man in my story who built the little home in heaven.

But no word of this did he speak to his trench-mates. To them he spoke about the other stories in the book, not about that one. It is curious that we never mention to others the favorite subject of our thoughts - that is, most of us do not.

Another thing in the book which interested our friend was the story of the woman in the invisible who made a journey into Egypt with her still-living husband. He used to wonder whether, if he should die, he could go in the spirit, as he said, to the little place in North Wales which he had once visited with his sweetheart, and which they had selected as the future scene of their wedding journey.

One night he wrote her a long letter asking her, in case of his death, to go there this summer, and saying he would try to meet her there. Then after reflection he destroyed the letter, fearing it might make her sad.

When I saw about him a peculiar light which the indwelling spirit throws round its vehicle when that vehicle is about to be destroyed, I waited, knowing there would soon be work to do.

Suddenly I saw his body fall to the ground, and saw the tenuous bodies exuding themselves. I waited but a moment, then went forward and lifted the spirit out of the sleep into which it would have drifted. I breathed on the forehead of the astral - for astrals have foreheads, make no mistake about that - I breathed on the astral

forehead of the man who had paid our book the compliment of thinking about it and about us in the last moment of his life.

He opened his eyes on my face.

“Hello, ‘X!’” he said. “I hoped you would meet me here. You’re a good fellow not to disappoint me.”

“Oh, I was always a good fellow!” I answered. “How did you know so quickly that you had come out?”

“Because I saw you.”

“And how did you know me?”

“By your photograph, which I saw in a magazine.”

“But do I still look like that old hulk?” I asked; for I rather pride myself on the recovery of a certain part of my original youth and beauty.

“Why,” he said, “you do look like the photograph.”

“That is strange,” I replied. Then I remembered that my very knowledge of the man’s thoughts of me, as being the old Judge of the story, might have made my body transform itself to meet the demands of his recognition, even without the intervention of my will.

“Do you want to take a nap?” I asked, though there was no sleepiness in his eyes.

“No, thank you, ‘X.’ I should like to go to England. But perhaps you have something to do besides indulging my wants and wishes.”

I laughed.

“Your wants and wishes are just as important as mine,” I said. “I’ll go to England with you.”

We went.

Crossing the Channel we passed a transport laden with troops.

“I wish all those fellows knew as much as I do,” my friend said. “Maybe they would fight with renewed vigor if they could see what a good companion I have found out here.”

Do not be startled, you clergymen who say, “Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,” and draw solemn faces as you preside over the passing of souls! Do not be startled or shocked by the jolly conversation of my newly-arrived soldier-boy. He knew that he was with an old friend, and he knew also that death is no more sacred than life, and need not be any more solemn.

We went to call on a girl. I often went courting in my youth, but never did I feel more interest in such a visit than when I went with this soldier to see his girl. The fact that she could not see us made no difference. I am used to that now.

She was combing her hair when we arrived, beautiful long hair, and on the mantel before her and under the mirror was a photograph of my friend. As her eyes rested on it lovingly, suddenly he passed between her and the photograph, and she cried out:

“Why, the eyes are alive!” and dropped the comb on the floor.

Then, as the truth flashed through her mind, she said, very solemnly:

“My dear, if it is really you, and if you have come to me in this strange way, know that I love you and shall always love you, and that I will meet you in heaven.”

Then she sat down in a little chair and began to cry.

I left him with her; but I shall return occasionally to see how my charge is getting along, and by and by I shall teach him some of the lessons on which his future welfare depends. I do not wish him to return to the neighborhood of the battlefields. Why should he? He has served, and has earned his reward.

Perhaps later I may tell you something more about the man who died with your name - and mine - in his thoughts.

April 24.

LETTER XXX

THE ROSE AND THE CROSS

More and more I am charmed and amazed by that one whom we call the Beautiful Being. I shall never understand it, for its ways are not our ways.

Yesterday it passed over the battlefield again, and I should have written when I came to you a few hours afterward had I not pitied your weariness. Do not be discouraged. Sometimes the Masters of Compassion may seem to their servants to have no compassion; but they know, as the servants cannot know, that the hardest road leads up the highest mountain, and that there is rest at the top.

The Beautiful Being passed over the battlefield. Imagine a rose in a cannon's mouth, a bird singing in the heart of an earthquake, a pearl in a landslide, an angel in hell.

You know not the meaning of the word battlefield. Yesterday thousands died in the awful uproar. Noise! noise! noise! - till the nerves shrieked with pain and despair seized the soul. To go out of life in that seething maelstrom is generally to pass into another seething maelstrom, hotter and noisier than the one left behind.

How can I write of war so as to spare your feelings? The great Teachers are not trying to spare your feelings. They want you to feel and feel, till the very force of the wave of feeling carries you high on the shore of Adeptship. And they want you to think and think, till the irresistible cold of logic freezes self out of you. Ice and fire!

If you shrink from knowing what the soldiers of the nations have suffered that you

may be free, you are unworthy of that freedom. Do not shrink from suffering. The husk of the seed must be broken before the sprout can appear.

In dying for their country, those souls in the hell of battle are giving birth to the new time. In suffering with them, your souls are giving birth to the new in yourselves. Do not look for joy while humanity is in travail, unless you can find the joy in suffering. Yes, I know the time when first, and through whom, that grand idea found lodgment in your consciousness. It is the secret of great souls in this hour of the world's pain.

If you suffer till you can suffer no more - then the poles shift, and the joy of suffering illuminates the soul. Then the beautiful being in yourself hovers over the battlefield where the lesser self has been slain.

There is a beautiful being in every one of you, the bird that sings in the heart of the earthquake, the rose that nestles in the hot mouth of the cannon, the pearl that cannot be crushed by the landslide, the angel that illumines hell.

All the normal feelings of the human heart are intensified at this time. No one is the same as before the war burst - no one, anywhere in the world. The soul of humanity is in travail. This incarnation of humanity is turned against itself, and rends itself. The heart of humanity is an abyss, into which humanity had grown too blind to look, so the blazing torches of the guardians of good and evil have been thrust into the abyss, and all the drowsing dwellers therein have been suddenly, rudely awakened.

Oh, hearts of earth, do not fall asleep again! Pity and love one another, for the pain of one is the pain of each, and over the battlefield of the suffering race the Beautiful Being hovers.

Humanity is the One, and humanity is the many, and all together you may come into the inheritance of your Father which is in heaven.

You are familiar with the symbol of the Rose-Cross. Not until the hard wood is driven through your four limbs, in the pain of your shocked and wounded nerves, can the great red rose of love unfold its perfumed petals upon your breast, between the arms of the cross.

The human in you is the pain of the cross, the divine in you is the perfume of the rose, and you yourself, you human and divine, are the Rose-Cross.

If you shrink from the splintering pain of the wood as it claims you for its own, you cannot smell the perfume of the rose which also claims you for its own.

Do not refuse the great initiation, O humanity of the races! Do not hide yourself in the dungeon of fear when the great Initiator comes!

On the awful cross of war shall blossom the red rose of the new race. On the cross of each mortal form may blossom its red rose.

The rose marks the balance between the East and the West, between the rising and the setting sun, between the human and the divine. The arms of the cross extend to

infinity, its feet are buried in the substance of eternity, its head is among the angels and the gods, and the heart of the rose is everywhere. It is in every heart of all these myriads who shrink at the touch of the hard wood.

I hear every day the shrieks of those who are making the vicarious atonement for the race. When they lie mangled on the battlefield, the arms of the cross are being driven through their quivering flesh, and the petals of the rose are unfolding in their hearts.

They are dying for love at the hands of hate, for love and hate are opposite and omnipresent. Their love for their country is their call to the atonement, their at-onement with the God who established the law of the East and the West, the Height and the Depth, the opposing forces of Love and Hate. They have accepted the sacrifice. For them shall be the resurrection and the life, after their sojourn among the dead, their sojourn in hell.

They shall appear to the Magdalen at the door of the sepulchre, the one whose sins were forgiven because she loved much, and who shall call the disciples to give them the tidings of great joy.

The soul of the world is the risen Christ, and the disciples rejoice at the tidings.

How can I withhold from you the great event which Time has ushered in?

For thirty pieces of silver the soul of the world was sold, and the Judas of the world has given the kiss of betrayal with the name of God on his lips, and the Roman soldiers are already dividing the garments.

Pontius Pilate has washed his hands of the issue, and his wife weeps in her chamber at the disregarding of her dream. The priests of the Sanhedrim are wagging their heads with satisfaction, but the veil of the Temple of Humanity is rent from top to bottom.

How could you receive the message if you had not suffered, O listener at the door of Time? Who would believe you, had you not grasped the truth of the atonement? Until the wood of the cross had been driven through your limbs, the rose could not blossom, O world in travail at this hour!

Be still, and know that God is God. In the stillness of perception the petals begin to open, and joy steals over the heart, and the heart swells with the expanding joy, till every fibre of the cross is alive and tingling with the joy at the heart of the rose, and the fragrance sweetens the world.

And the Beautiful Being, a ray of the Holy Spirit, hovers over the Calvary of the battlefield.

April 25.

LETTER XXXI

A SERBIAN MAGICIAN

It is a long road from the sacrifice of the Rose-Cross to plague-stricken Serbia, but that is the road you take with me this morning.

There is a reason why that country has been most susceptible to the astral germs of disease, that a loathesome being of which I wrote you in a former letter spewed forth into the upper world.

Long ago in the mountains of Serbia there dwelt an evil magician, a man whose studies in the deeper sciences were undertaken solely for the intellectual and selfish pleasure which he found in them. He had progressed so far beyond the normal human consciousness that he had no worldly ambitions. To him the world was but a despicable place to escape from, and the people of the world were insects beneath his notice, save only as he could use them for his purposes.

He considered himself a kind of god, and so diligent were his selfish labors that had he devoted his knowledge to the good of the human race from which he sprang, he might really have become a kind of god. But selfish and evil beings need never aspire to godship. At most they can take but a step beyond the human. The grub may become a butterfly, but if it hates the sunlight and the air of the higher regions, its wings had better not have grown.

This man, this selfish magician, had learned that by certain magical formula he could call to himself beings of the elements, and that by the aid of these invisibles he could create astral beings which, while themselves soulless, he could energize with his own force.

Now the turn for real and active evil which marked a certain stage in his life, came about in this way:

He had found what seemed to him a secure retreat among the mountains, he had prepared and magnetized the neighborhood of his hut so that it was a centre of astral force, and his right to the undivided possession of that spot was one of the ideas which he energized for his own protection.

Now the owner of the mountain where the magician lived discovered that the neighborhood of his hut was a good place for hunting the wild animals of that region, and soon the quiet of the magician's studies was broken by the reports of the guns of the hunters, who even crossed with their despised bodies the very circle which the magician had prepared for his own use.

This proved that he was not a very high magician, for had he made that centre for a work having as object the benefit of humanity, members of that humanity could not have profaned it. The retreats of the Masters of Compassion are secure against intrusion.

In his rage and disappointment he called down curses upon the hunters and upon all

the region roundabout, and by his evil magic he created beings who should execute his curses. He created them upon the earth and in the air above and in the region below the surface of the earth, and to each he allotted a task with fearful penalties for disobedience. His use of the power he had gained was a use *positively forbidden* by the Law under which the real Masters work.

It really caused the hunters to go away from that neighborhood, but the beings he had called and the beings he had created remained there; for he had not sufficient knowledge, or maybe not a sufficient sense of responsibility for his nefarious work, to make him destroy or banish them himself.

And when he died, at the ripe age of one hundred and twelve years, and his will was removed from them, they still remained in a state of semi-animation in the lower regions of the astral world.

Then, a century or more afterwards, when the great war wave broke over Europe, and the evil hosts of the unseen came clamoring for their prey and their satisfaction, these old astral monsters awoke out of their sleep and joined themselves to them, and the whole neighborhood which the evil magician had cursed became an infected place, from the exhalations of those beings whose *raison d'être* had been a man's hatred of the people who had disturbed him in his selfish labors.

I am not going to describe the process by which he had created them and laid an evil spell upon a whole neighborhood, for I am determined not to bestow upon a selfish world any knowledge that it can use to make more trouble in future. But I want you to realize that Serbia is really a dangerous place. That is why it was chosen as the focusing point for the evil onslaught of war.

The people of Serbia are brave and innocent of all this astral evil which has come upon them. They were used because the evil forces could get at them through this region already under a curse from of old.

The time has come when the men of the new race must know that there are things to be avoided in the astral world. If certain teachers had told less, this warning might not be necessary; but the world has acquired already so clear a perception that there is another world within and outside their own, that their natural curiosity must be protected by warnings not to fool with the unseen, until they have acquired such a selfless devotion to their fellow-beings that they may explore it without being themselves infected by the poison of the snake that nestles there among the flowers.

The old magician has passed on into that sphere where selfish scholars pursue their investigations unhampered by the limitations of gross matter; but the full responsibility for his actions in those Serbian hills when he was last on earth will wait for him at the door of rebirth. When he comes to the world again it will be in a body which is itself a victim of all the plagues which he let loose there, in the determined effort to protect himself against others who had as good a right there as he had.

Stay out of Serbia till it has been cleansed of plague, you whose work is not connected with the specialty of plague-destruction. But those doctors and other scientists who are devotedly going thither to save the race from the horror that threatens it - to them shall be accorded all the honors and glories of war and of peace, for they have consented, their higher selves have consented, that they be used in the service of the world.

I have said before that the evil elemental beings fear the scientist; and though the scientists fight this plague with material means, yet the force of their will and of their unselfish purpose acts beyond the material base of their operations, extending its influence even into the invisible world of which their objective minds have no knowledge, purifying it with vital air.

Yes, all honor to the scientists!

April 26.

LETTER XXXII

JUDAS AND TYPHON

I have spoken of the crucifixion through which the soul of the race is passing. Now I want to speak of the Judas who betrayed that race for thirty pieces of silver.

Reader of this book, whether you are a Jew, a Christian, a Hindoo or a Mahometan, if you know anything at all about the initiatory process of the soul, you must know that the gospel drama - be it historical or legendary, whichever way you choose to take it - is a faithful dramatization of the process of initiation.

And in that process the betrayal of Judas is an inevitable part. Without it, the cup of bitterness would not be full, and the cup of bitterness must be full for the soul of the race, the soul of the individual, the soul of the Christ.

"My Father, why hast Thou forsaken me?" has been on the lips of many a mangled soldier on this awful Calvary of the race.

The heavy cross has been borne all through the toilsome months of the journey from Autumn to Spring, and now in the April time the race has been nailed to the cross for the agony. The crown of thorns is on the bleeding brows, the nails have pierced the hands and feet, the cup of vinegar has been offered, and now on a million lips is the cry, "Eloi, Eloi, lama Sabachthani!"

The betrayal of Judas was inevitable, as the deed of Typhon was inevitable. Had it not been for Judas, the story would not be complete. Had it not been for the act of Typhon in slaying Osiris, Horus the Son could not have arisen.

And yet in the face of this I stand here - safe behind the veil of the invisible, as some objectors will say - and advise the world to soften the awful punishment of Judas, so far as lies in its power. For did not that One himself say upon the cross, "*Father,*

forgive them, for they know not what they do”?

Nothing in the Sermon on the Mount, nothing in the sacred records of the East, nothing in the archives of the whole world can compare with those ten words for grandeur and spiritual significance: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!”

They who now sin against the race, indeed know not what they do. They are drunk with the rage of destruction, maddened by the subconsciousness of their own guilt; but what they do they cannot know. Only the initiate souls among the Germans even vaguely know what Germany has done.

And yet I say, forgive and pity them; for their offence is a terrible one, and their suffering will be great.

Fear not, when your blood relations are slain by thousands, and when you feel yourself also slain by spiritual participation, the good must triumph in the end, because the race is on its upward journey. Its blood is not spilled in vain.

Did the human race not know, when it gave the sop to Germany in the last conclave, that it was Germany who would betray it? The race knew.

And in that awful July the subconscious selves of men knew in their sleep that the terrible trial was at hand. Do you remember? In many a sensitive soul that drama was pre-enacted, before it was enacted on this Calvary of the nations.

That Germany would betray the world was written in the soul of Germany; but if the world should hate her with a continuing hate for that betrayal, it would be a sore in the heart of the human race which would ache for a thousand years. “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

To admit the necessity of evil in the cosmic scheme is not to condone evil. To forgive the sinner is not to minimize the sin. It is because of the inability of the undeveloped mind to grasp the awful law of the balance of forces that the Guardians of the sacred knowledge have been so reticent in their public utterances.

“It must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh,” has been repeated in thousands of churches; but the latter half of the sentence has been understood far better than the first half, “It must needs be that offenses come.”

Being what she is, Germany could not help betraying the race to this crucifixion. It was written that the human race would be betrayed, and no nation could have done it but Germany. Typhon was obliged to slay Osiris, by the very law of his being. And now Isis, the great Mother, the Womanhood of the world, wanders wailing up and down seeking for the fragments of the body of her husband.

On the battle line for a thousand miles those fragments are scattered. Isis is indeed widowed.

And as man is the type of the great Archetype, so one man stands this day as the type of the Betrayer, and that man is Wilhelm of Germany.

The disease which long has eaten at his brain, a contributory cause of his ego-mania, was the vulnerable spot, the spot unguarded between the lamps of the magic circle of Europe, where the evil forces found entrance. Verily, it shall be woe to him by whom this offense has come!

And in saying that the world must not hate the nation which Evil has used as its servant, I am not advising sentimental weakness in the final closing of this account. The world for its own protection must make it impossible that Germany should ever repeat this betrayal. The details I leave to the specialists, being a modest ghost, and speaking from my safe retreat behind the veil of the invisible.

April 27.

LETTER XXXIII CROWNS OF STRAW

In seeking to hold back the karma of Germany, I am not seeking to upset the law of justice, the law of cause and effect. On the contrary.

Your studies in the law of karma have been but superficial if you have not learned that time is a factor. Many a solvent firm would be thrown into bankruptcy should all its creditors demand *at once* full payment of their accounts. The moral and financial indebtedness of Germany is its awful karma. Give it a little time in which to adjust itself to an entirely new way of thinking.

I listened to a discussion which you had with a friend the other day * in regard to the hypothesis that Germany's false assertion of "*Deutschland über Alles*," being so powerfully postulated, could overcome facts; that the human race might be evolving into the era of mind, and that a powerful concept, however false, might make facts conform to it.

* The following clauses in this paragraph, not being clear in the original, were rewritten by me.—Editor.

Let us see.

The idea that Germany and the Germans are superior to everything else in the world lies so deep in the minds of that race that it will be difficult to eliminate it.

As you yourself observed, there is another race known to history which declared itself to be the chosen people of God, and for that arrogant assumption is now scattered over the face of the earth, a homeless people, no longer even a nation.
(1915)

The attempt to create a thing by postulating it as already existent is not new. Affirmation and denial are used with telling effect by a modern school of thinkers,

who disregard utterly the facts of nature.

Now when we disregard and deny the facts of nature, we may suspend the operations of nature in ourselves to a certain degree and for a certain time, or we may fail in so doing, and by reason of our consciousness of our failure become more than ever the puppets of nature.

The Christian Science healer who fails to heal and honestly acknowledges his failure, may go on asserting his power in the face of that demonstrated failure, or he may become a complete doubter of himself and of the claims of his science, or he may re-examine both in the light of facts and become a real student of the mysteries of nature and of mind.

Germany may take any one of these three courses when she has demonstrated the old saying of the wisest of men, that they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Did you ever try to convince a German of a fact which he denied? I see that you have. Did your proof of his mistake convince him that he could be mistaken? Probably not.

Now Germany has really made herself into a great nation by postulating her greatness and superiority in all things. Her mistake consisted in trying to prove it. In trying to prove a statement you tacitly admit for the time that the opposite assumption may have some base, and if you are not able to demonstrate your contention you are lost - unless you are a German. A German convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.

If facts do not bear him out, then facts are false. Now facts are not false, and Germany is not superior in all things to every other nation on earth. She may have more guns and more soldiers than two or three of the other nations, that is a fact which we gladly admit; but superiority in guns and soldiers is only superiority in guns and soldiers. It is not superiority in all things.

Germany has said in effect that might is right. Well, let her prove her might, and we will then discuss the right of might.

Some years before I left the earth I was stronger than most men of my acquaintance; but if I had on that ground knocked them down and taken their watches, my own superior strength might have been useless to me except to propel my six-foot body up and down a cell in the county jail. I might have taken the watches, but I could not have kept them, for my individual might would have been outclassed by the might of the society in which I dwelt. So with Germany.

Most men consider themselves superior to their friends and acquaintances, and are secretly annoyed that their friends and acquaintances do not acknowledge it. But on the strength of that supposed superiority they do not generally knock their neighbors down.

My assertion of my superiority to all other men and angels does not make me

superior to them in anything but fatuous conceit.

If a Christian Scientist with a broken leg asserts that he has not a broken leg, it does not change the fact. The strength of his assertion may work in the direction of curing the defect - granted. It often does.

The conceit of Germany has called out her energy and made her material present superior to her material past; but that cannot place her "over all," unless she convinces the world of it, and the world accepts an inferior place. Germans are not convincing advocates, because they always arouse opposition by overstating the facts in their favor, and in disputing the facts against them.

So little do they understand the critical minds of the more critical races that they try to convince by mere assertion, and so prejudice their case from the start.

One service Germany will have done the world; she will have hardened it. It is a tragic service, and one that will turn against herself. Many a parent by his blind brutality has made his son a greater brute than he. Many a man by wounding a friend has been stabbed to the soul in return. The friend may be harder than before, but has he profited? Perhaps. Experience is an asset. Man grows by pain as well as by pleasure. If the brutality of Germany makes the races of Europe more vigorous, they are the gainers - not Germany. The Doctor who gives too bitter medicine is sent about his business, sometimes without his fee.

There was once a "mental" scientist who declared that it was not necessary for his daughter to practice the piano; that all she needed to do was to affirm that she was a pianist, and she would be one.

Germany is in the position of the daughter who had acted on that teaching, and has become the horror of the neighborhood. She is in danger of being dispossessed as a public nuisance.

Also an aggregation of individuals making one assertion do not necessarily have an effect in proportion to their numbers.

Do you remember what I wrote you about white and black magicians, that two who worked together for good had the power of four, and that two who worked together for evil had only the power of one and a half? Now what is Germany working for in this combined effort? Solely for herself - exactly like the black magician.

So deep has the German conceit sunk into the German soul, that they really believe that in occupying and enslaving other countries they would be doing them a favor. No, I am not exaggerating. I have heard Germans make that humorless statement.

Lunatic asylums are full of men who assert that they are kings, and an occasional inmate declares himself the King of kings. These patients are even more fully convinced than are the Germans, who assert their kingship. If assertion alone can transcend fact, these men are kings. Are they? To themselves they are, and the Germans are just as surely "over all" as are the straw-crowned kings in the asylums.

It is useless to argue with a king in a straw crown. He has an irresistible argument – his crown. Can you not see it? If you do not salute, he turns his back and walks away.

But even a king in a lunatic asylum may be cured and restored to a sane equality with his peers. That is what I hope for Germany. That is what the Masters hope - for Germany stands high in the record-book of the Masters. A king in a straw crown has not lost his soul through his false assertion of kingship. He is an immortal son of God. His spirit is as genuine as yours or mine. His error is only temporary, and is generally caused by brooding too long over imagined wrongs and slights. Not unlike Germany.

When this idea of superiority began to fester in the minds of that noble people, they were not a great nation. They felt their wrongs and the slights put upon them. The only escape for their wounded egoism was into the world of the mind, where assertion has free play. They turned their backs and plaited their straw crowns. They were kings, and anyone who did not see it was unworthy of the honor of their friendship.

Then, their madness having taken a violent form, came the great doctor, War, and confined them in a relatively narrow space; but the small people they knocked down in their first attack of violence still lie prostrate from the blow. The heirs of these kings will have to pay damages. The law of nations is even more just than the laws of men.

Who dares to say that a State has no morals? Is a State spiritually inferior to a man? No more than a Planetary Spirit is inferior to a State. There is a cosmic morality, and whoever goes against it - whether a State or a man - will meet the day of reckoning. Karma is a law.

April 29.

LETTER XXXIV

THE SYLPH AND THE FATHER

Passing yesterday along the line where the great French army stands before its powerful opponent, and marking the spirit of courage and aspiration which makes it seem like a long line of living light, I saw a familiar face in the regions outside the physical.

I paused, highly pleased at the encounter, and the sylph - for it was a sylph whom I met - paused also with a little smile of recognition.

Do you recall in my former book the story of a sylph, Meriline, who was the companion and familiar of a student of magic who lived in the *rue de Vaugirard* in Paris?

It was Meriline that I met above the line of light which shows to wanderers in the

astral regions where the soldiers of *la belle France* fight and die for the same ideal which inspired *Jeanne d'Arc* - to drive the foreigner out of France.

"Where is your friend and master?" I asked the sylph, and she pointed below to a trench which spoke loud its determination to conquer.

"I am here, to be still with him," she said.

"And can you speak to him here?" I asked.

"I can always speak with him," she answered. "I have been very useful to him - and to France."

"To France?" I enquired, with growing interest.

"Oh, yes! When his commanding officer wants to know what is being plotted over there, he often asks my friend, and my friend asks me."

"Truly," I thought, "the French are an inspired people, when the officers of armies ask guidance from the realm of the invisible! But had not *Jeanne* her visions?"

"And how do you gain the information desired?" I asked, drawing nearer to Meriline, who seemed more serious than when we met some years before in Paris.

"Why," she answered, "I go over there and look around me. I have learned what to look for, he has taught me, and when I bring him news he rewards me with more love."

"And do you love him still, as of old?"

"As of old?"

"Yes, as you did back there in Paris."

"Time must have passed slowly with you," said the sylph, "if you call a few years ago 'as of old'."

"Are a few years, then, as nothing?"

"A few years are as nothing to me," she replied. "I have lived a long time."

"And do you know the future of your friend?" I asked.

A puzzled look came over the face of Meriline, and she said, slowly:

"I used to know everything that would happen to him, because I could read his will, and whatever he willed came to pass; but since we have been out here he seems to have lost his will."

"Lost his will!" I exclaimed, in surprise.

"Yes, lost his will; for he prays continually to a great Being whom he loves far more than me, and he always prays one prayer, 'Thy will be done!' It used to be his will which was always done; but now, as I say, he seems to have lost his will."

"Perhaps," I said, "it is true of the will as was once said of the life, and he that loses

his will shall find it.”

“I hope he will find it soon,” she answered, “for in the old days he was always giving me interesting things to do, to help him achieve the purposes of his will, and now he only sends me over there. I don’t like over there!”

“Why not?”

“Because my friend is menaced by something over there.”

“And what has his will to do with that?”

“Why, even about that, he says all day to the great Being that he loves so much more than me, ‘Thy will be done’.”

“Do you think you could learn to say it, too?” I asked.

“I say it after him sometimes; but I don’t know what it means.”

“Have you never heard of God?”

“I have heard of many gods, of Isis and Osiris and Set, and of Horus, the son of Osiris.”

“And is it to one of these that he says, ‘Thy will be done’?”

“Oh, no! It is not to any of the gods that he used to call upon in his magical working. This is some new god that he has found.”

“Or the oldest of all gods that he has returned to,” I suggested. “What does he call Him?”

“Our Father who art in heaven.”

“If you also should learn to say ‘Thy will be done’ to our Father who is in heaven,” I said, “it might help you toward the attainment of that soul you were wanting and waiting for, when last we met in Paris.”

“How could our Father help me?”

“It was He who gave souls to men;” I said. The eyes of the sylph were brilliant with something almost human.

“And could He give a soul to me?”

“It is said that He can do anything.” “Then I will ask Him for a soul.”

“But to ask Him for a soul,” I said, “is not to pray the prayer your friend prays.”

“He only says . . .”

“Yes, I know. Suppose you say it after him.”

“I will, if you will tell me what it means. I like to do what my friend does.”

“Thy will be done,” I said, “when addressed to the Father in heaven, means that we give up all our desires, whether for pleasure or love or happiness, or anything else, and lay all those desires at His feet, sacrificing all we have or hope for to Him,

because we love Him more than ourselves.”

“That is a strange way to get what one desires,” she said.

“It is not done to get what one desires,” I answered.

“But what is it done for?”

“For love of the Father in heaven.”

“But I do not know the Father in heaven. What is He?”

“He is the Source and the Goal of the being of your friend. He is the One that your friend will re-become some day, if he can forever say to Him, Thy will be done.”

“The One he will re-become?”

“Yes, for when he blends his will with that of the Father in heaven, the Father in heaven dwells in his heart and the two become one.”

“Then is the Father in heaven really the Self of my friend?”

“The greatest philosopher could not have expressed it more truly,” I said.

“Then indeed do I love the Father in heaven,” breathed the sylph, “and I will say now every day and all day, ‘Thy will be done’ to Him.”

“Even if it separates you from your friend?”

“How can it separate me from my friend, if the Father is the Self of him?”

“I would that all angels were your equal in learning,” I said.

But Meriline had turned from me in utter forgetfulness, and was saying over and over, with joy in her uplifted face, “Thy will be done! Thy will be done!”

“Truly,” I said to myself, as I passed along the line, “he who worships the Father as the Self of the beloved has already acquired a soul.”

April 29.

LETTER XXXV

BEHIND THE DARK VEIL

One night, when the roar of battle was still, and the rays of the full moon shone down upon trampled mud, and man-filled trench, and tender spring-green growing things and soft-hued flowers, I met face to face a powerful being in a dark mantle who passed along the line of war with slow, majestic steps.

Seeing me he paused, and I paused also, struck by the grace of his tall form and the royal air of him. His face was veiled.

“Who are you,” he said, “who walk here at this hour as if in meditation?”

“I am a man much given to meditation,” I replied, “and this hour seems fit for it.”

“And what was the subject of your meditation?”

“The war below us.”

“And what was the course of your thoughts, which my appearance interrupted?”

“My thoughts were of peace,” I said, “and they were full of questions as to how the carnage of this war might be made to cease.”

“Your questions were in order,” the majestic being answered. “Perhaps I can be of help to you.”

“Will you not unveil?” I suggested, “for I like to see the faces of those with whom I hold converse.”

He threw back a fold of the dark covering of his head, revealing a face which I know not how to describe. Power and evil were blent in it, and a strange beauty, both superhuman and subhuman. The face was marked as if by an eternity of pain and struggle; but in the eyes was a light of will which startled me by its force.

“Who are you?” I asked.

“What matter who I am?” he replied. “I am one who can solve the problem of your meditations.”

“You do not look like an angel of peace,” I said, “but rather like one who has seen much war of his own making.”

“It is for that reason that I am competent to speak of peace. What do the peaceful know of peace? Only the warrior knows the meaning of that word.”

“I will listen,” I said, “to whatever you have to say; for I recognize that you know something of the Law.”

“I am one of the executors of the Law,” he answered, “and I have a plan for bringing peace to the world.”

“Will you state that plan?”

“It is for that I came out here to meet you,” he said.

“And how did you learn of me?”

“I know all the strong workers and many of the weak ones. You are a powerful worker.”

“Truly you do me too much honor,” I said, “for I am only a humble soldier in the army of the Law’s executants.”

“The modesty of the great,” he observed, while he eyed me closely to see the effect of his words.

“Whoever you are,” I said, “and I perceive that you are something unusual, know that my interest in my own stature is no longer paramount with me.”

“It is for that reason that you may be used in the interest of peace.”

“Continue,” I requested.

He regarded me for a time with brilliant, questioning eyes, and then he asked:

“You are weary of war, of the labor of war?”

“I am weary with my sympathy for those who suffer.”

“And you would like to end their suffering?”

“It seems to me at times,” I said, more to myself than to him, “that I would gladly give my life, if by so doing I could shorten the horrors down here.”

“Your life? And what do you mean by your life?”

“I mean my consciousness of freedom, my freedom of consciousness.”

“A good definition of the life of such as you,” he observed. “And would you really sacrifice that life for the world?”

“Most gladly, if by so doing I could save the world.”

“It might be possible,” he said.

“Will you speak more plainly?” I demanded. “You seem to me to be feeling your way to some statement of importance.”

“What can be more important,” he returned, “than the sacrifice of such a life as yours for the world?”

“Go on.”

“There is a way,” he said, “by which your sacrifice of what you call ‘the consciousness of freedom and the freedom of consciousness’ might save those men down there from further pain.”

“Again I repeat, go on.”

“It lies in my power,” he said, coming nearer and regarding me fixedly with his glowing eyes, “it lies in my power so to work upon the minds of the opposing armies, the armies on both sides, that they will refuse to fight any longer.”

“And betray their countries?” I asked.

“And bring peace,” he corrected me.

“And what have I to do with it?”

“You might have much to do with it.”

“Your words are still dark to me,” I said.

“Then I will make them clearer,” he replied. “In order for you to understand my meaning, it is necessary that I explain myself. I am one of those who serve the good by opposing the good, and thus giving it greater activity.”

“So I had observed. Will you now state in clear words what purpose you have with me?”

“My purpose is to make you a proposition. If you wish this carnage to cease - and already it has gone on long enough to serve the purpose which I serve, to soak the world with blood, to destroy that which a decade of labor will be too brief to rebuild, to awaken, all the hatred and other evil passions which nest in the hearts of men - if you wish this carnage to cease, I have the means by which it can be made to cease.”

“And where do I come in?”

“I have long observed you,” he said, “observed your diligence in applying the principles given you by your Teacher.”

“Then why did you ask me who I was, a little while ago?”

“Only as a preliminary to further conversation.”

“Oh!” I said.

“I have observed you,” he repeated, “and realized that with your power and attainments you might be of greater service if you should shift your allegiance and join us. Your consciousness of freedom would be even greater.”

“But that consciousness of freedom was my definition of life! I suppose you would say, in adjusting your argument to the limitations of my mind, that in losing my life I should find it.”

A slight smile curved the lined features of the being before me.

“You would be always an entertaining companion,” he said. “Think twice before you decline my proposition.”

“In your proposed agreement,” I replied, “you do not state clearly the consideration. I am an old lawyer, and a stickler for forms.”

There was no smile now on his face, as he said to me:

“If you will transfer your allegiance to us, I will bring this war to an end.”

“And could you?”

“I could.”

“How?”

“I have already stated how.”

“But the medicine you propose would be worse than the disease, even assuming, which I deny, that the patient would swallow it.”

“But would you not make the sacrifice, if I proved to you that I could make good my end of the bargain?”

“No.”

“Then surely you care little for the world!”

“You argue like a German propagandist,” I said.

“You mean that they argue like me,” he corrected.

“I have wondered,” I said, “in what school of logic they were trained.”

“And you refuse my proposition?”

“I wonder you should take the trouble to make it.”

“Why call that a trouble which gives me the pleasure of your society?”

“I have already heard,” I said, “that the devil was a great flatterer.”

“The devil has great tact.”

We stood looking at each other, measuring each other. He was an interesting study.

“Dropping for the moment,” I said, “our differences of purpose and ideal, and speaking merely as two minds -”

“Equal in brilliancy,” he interrupted.

“Speaking as two minds,” I continued, “will you not tell me why you played upon my love for the world, my willingness to sacrifice myself for the world, in your attempt to win me to your standard?”

“What else could I play upon?”

“Surely I must have some fault, some hidden sin, through which your subtle mind could have thought to reach me.”

“Oh,” he said, “I am too wise to tempt you through your hidden faults, for you are determined to conquer them! You could not be thrown off the track that way. Only those young on your path are easily conquered through their faults. The greater souls we attack through their virtues.”

“Continue,” I said, “for truly you interest me.”

“It is said in the world,” he went on, “that there is more than one way to skin a cat. There is also more than one way to get rid of a worker for the Teachers whom you follow. When we cannot deflect a worker through his evil passions, his hatred, anger, avarice, lust, jealousy or fear, we are sometimes able to weaken him through his good passions, his love, his loyalty, or his self-sacrifice.”

“Thank you for your confidence,” I said. “And now I will wish you good evening.”

As I passed along the line I murmured to myself:

“Truly is the serpent more subtle than any beast of the field, and man needs all his wisdom to stand against him.”

May 1.

LETTER XXXVI

THE "LUSITANIA"

(This letter was written on the 7th of May, at 10.30 A. M., New York time, one hour after the sinking of the Lusitania, and nine hours before the writer knew of it.)

And still they press forward against us - the menacing powers of darkness and evil, seeking to vent their rage against the world and to glut themselves on the blood of the slain.

I have not been near you for a few days because I have had no time. Did you fancy that I had escaped time? Not yet. Had I escaped time, I could not speak thus to the world in the grip of time. Had I quite transcended space, your room could not hold me.

During the six days that you have not seen me I have been here, there and everywhere in Europe - even in Asia have I been, for the attack is world-wide.

A little while ago I told you that we had driven back the forces of evil. They have rallied and come forward again, not quite as strong, but more desperate and more frenzied.

They seek now to embroil the United States, and the whole continent of the old dead race that fed them on blood by magical rites ages ago, that continent where the new race has to be born when this prolonged labor is over.

Had I remembered the Law of Rhythm I should have known that the tide of evil would flow back again, and that we should have to struggle with it a second time. It may even now gather fresh force and renew the attack, a little weaker still.

The evil beings whom we have slain are slain, they can trouble us no more for a time; but the slain are few beside the many still active. Help us with your thoughts.

Many of our friends in the world have staggered and grown weary during the last few days. Do not you!

As thy day, so shall thy strength be, O World that we struggle for, and for which we shall win in the end the crown of peace and brotherhood!

As I have said before, the world is in the throes of an initiatory ceremony. The trial by water, the trial by air, the trial by fire - all these must the world go through before it can take its place among the initiates of the stellar hierarchies. There is no drawing back now, and the world must not fail. Should it fail there would soon be a vacant place in the circles of the Zodiac. But the world will not fail.

Again have I met with the evil being of whom I wrote at the beginning of these letters. He is lashing himself in fury now, drunk with the power of his place. Ere his hour draws near, he is hot to assert himself.

The climax is approaching, and if I visit you less often than before, it is because I cannot leave my place so often.

Never falter in courage. Your faith shall be the evidence of things still unseen - as it has been before.

This second struggle with the powers of darkness will leave us stronger and leave them weaker.

I know many things which I cannot tell you, for you are not strong enough to receive them; but remember this - the Law of Rhythm holds, it is the Law of laws, and after this storm will come a corresponding calm, after this agony a rest in the quiet of love. When hate has spent itself, then love can have its way.

Do you not hate, but stand steady, merely withstanding attacks. Do not waste your strength. It will be needed by and by. If we use you sometimes as a material base on which to plant our etheric feet for a greater spring into space, remember that you offered yourself for the service of the world, and the service has been accepted.

This is no time to talk of reward, but the law of justice is behind the world.

So far as possible, strengthen those who suffer too much, and we will strengthen you. The angels you saw last night are the bodyguard of the Masters' servants. As thy day, so shall thy strength be.

I will give you a formula for use in time of stress and storm: Reach up to the indwelling Spirit and repeat, "For her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

It is only in contact with mind, with desire and with matter that the Spirit struggles and suffers. In its own home all is peaceful and pleasant. Reach up to that home when the storms are too loud, and you will find a place of silence.

Do not let go your hold upon the body. You could no longer be used as a material base should you loosen your hold on the material, and those who come to live altogether in the astral world just now have a hard time at first.

Be calm and poised and sure. Be not a quicksand but a rock.

That is all for the present.

This little time of writing has rested me as well as you, and I will return.

May 7.

LETTER XXXVII

VEILED PROPHECIES

If you were less easily startled, less easily thrown out of the negative condition in which only you can take down my words, less easily thrown back by shock into your normal objective consciousness, I could have told you yesterday that the Lusitania had gone down, instead of merely hinting at disaster.

You are quite right always to stop the writing the moment your own brain begins to

work; but you can see that it limits us in the giving of definite news.

We were near that ship when it went down, several of us, including the one whom we call the Beautiful Being.

Hold steady now. That is the only advice I am offering you, save only to remain in America for the present. The good you could do in England now is outweighed by something else which you will understand before the middle of August.*

* Extraordinarily verified on the fourteenth of August.—Editor.

If you look up the letter in which I told you that a great Being of Thought had passed along the German line telling those who could understand that their cause was lost, you will see that I said to watch for the result. The result is this desperate and frenzied attack everywhere by that nation.

May 15th is a significant date.* No, I tell you no more than that.

The powers of good will not fail.

You will have disturbing news from Europe before long. Hold quiet through everything. We have done and are doing our best.

Thank you for what you have done for my friend and pupil. * * * Also there is another thing you can do for us. * * *

There is much that you do not understand, but that we understand. The road of initiation is a hard road for all. Love one another, you who try to tread it. It makes the way easier.

May 8.

* Date of the reception by Germany of the United States note on the sinking of the Lusitania, and also of the demonstrations in Italy which precipitated the entry of that country into the war. - Editor.

LETTER XXXVIII

ADVICE TO A SCRIBE

You can be of more use to us if you do not allow yourself to be crushed by the sadness of the world at this crisis through which the world is passing.

Each day rise to the plane of the spirit, above the physical world, beyond the desires of the astral world, beyond the lower stratum of mind, up and up to the Source of all life and all wisdom.

Set apart some time every day for this exercise. Use the Hebrew formula which you have used before, and use it with power, in connection with the yoga practice in which you are versed. This combining of two systems makes for strength, because it avoids the limitation of too closely identifying the Self with one race or one period. Occult development, occult power, is of all times and all races. The knowledge of the

new race about to be ushered in will include all the systems of the past, taking from each the special thing in which it surpasses the others.

Do not sink again into that slough of depression from which I called you this day. It is not necessary for you to die a thousand times in order to know death. It seems to me that you have gone deep enough into the woe of the world. Now rise to a corresponding height.

Your sympathy will be no less tender if you do not die of sympathy every day.

Your real work comes after the war, when the world can and will listen to the teaching of brotherhood. Do not perish beforehand is my advice, and the advice of my Teacher through me.

The Teachers are very grave in this crisis, but they are not crushed to earth. They know that after the storm comes the calm and their faith has survived.

In the awful depression in which you have been sunk for the last few days, how could you help anyone? It is not for you to ask help from others, but only from us. You know where we are. It is for you to revive the drooping spirits and the drooping faith of those who have not received the assurances which you have received.

This letter is not a reproof, but a lesson. I would not have you retire to a selfish peace above the tumult and stay there, forgetting the world. I do not forget the world. I work by day and by night. But what help could I be to these war-shocked souls that come out here should I weep when I encounter them? No help at all should I be. Instead, I seek to strengthen them with my strength, to encourage them with my hope.

I do not mean, when I say that your work begins after the war, that you can do nothing now. Far from it. You can do much, in both worlds. But if you die of the wounds you behold out here, if you are caught yourself in the whirlpool of despair, how can you draw others out of it?

I cannot repeat too often that this war is the world's initiation. It will be a new and an enlightened world which will rise from the ashes of the old one - a phoenix of a world, and I want you to rise with it.

The agony cannot endure forever. It is too intense just now, which means that the climax is approaching.

When I told you that the issue was settled here, I did not mean that the war would end in a day or two. Study cause and effect. Study the rise and fall of everything according to cyclic law. The tidal wave must spend itself on the shore before it subsides again into the sea.

Be calm. Keep faith with those whose task it is to uphold the faith of mankind.

When you say that you want to suffer as long as the world suffers, you are speaking as our pupil, and we would not have it otherwise. But remember that one may be

strong in suffering. We would not have you shirk the experience; but master and use the experience, instead of letting it master and use you.

In regard to America, did I not tell you some time ago that there was “an American on guard to-night,” old Abraham Lincoln, who renounced heaven that he might watch over and guard the land he died for? Rest in confidence on that assurance.

The other countries that you love are watched over also. And another country which you do not love is watched over, lest it wander so far that it cannot find its way back into the fold of human brotherhood. There are souls in that country who are keenly aware that she has gone as far as she safely may without becoming an outlaw among the nations. There are even Germans in America who know it. If I named a few of them, you might be surprised.

It is well that Germans in America should feel the American repudiation of this latest piracy on the high seas. Let them feel it to the quick. They can learn in no other way.

Do you fancy that in writing through your hand this book to be published after the war, I am impressing my thought only upon you? I am impressing others besides you.

A few days after I wrote you that Abraham Lincoln was on guard, a newspaper cartoonist published a drawing of the ghost of the great Lincoln standing behind President Wilson. Did you think it was a mere coincidence? It was not a mere coincidence. I impress my thought, and the thought of the Masters behind me, on other minds than yours. I am a worker in the astral world. To impress the minds of men is one of the duties assigned me. I go here and there where I am needed; but I have not written anywhere else as I have written through you. I have tried to, but with very indifferent success. An accurate amanuensis between the worlds is rare. They have to be trained to distinguish between the thoughts of the dictator and the thoughts of their own minds, objective and subjective, also between these and the thoughts of irresponsible entities who like to have a finger in the earthly pie.

You wonder why I do not tell you more stories? I will tell you a story on my next visit.

May 11.

LETTER XXXIX

ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES

The story I have to tell you is a sad one, but we are writing of war.

It was three days after the Lusitania went down. Leaving the plains and hills of war-harried France, I had come out across the waters to serve where service was most needed at the moment.

Drawing near to the scene of the disaster, I met a child-soul who wandered up and

down looking for something which it could not find - a girl-child of maybe a dozen years, with troubled and bewildered eyes.

"Can I help you?" I asked, taking her by the hand, so that she ceased her restless moving to and fro and paused with me.

"I have lost my mother," she said. "Where is my mother?"

"I do not know," I answered, "but we will look for her."

It is not always easy for a bewildered soul to find in the astral world another soul whom it seeks, though it is sometimes very easy for a calm soul to find another. As on earth, the one we look for with turmoil in our hearts seems to be held away from us by invisible hands.

Passing along with the child, I met many others equally bewildered. All were looking for someone or for something.

"Why are we here?" asked the child. "I thought we were going to London."

"Do you not know that you have been drowned?" I asked

"Did I really drown when I was in the water?"

"Yes."

"I thought it was a dream, for I have been asleep."

"Yes, you have been asleep, but the drowning was no dream."

"Then where am I?"

"You are in the other world."

"The other world! But I thought the other world was heaven."

"Heaven is also in the other world."

"You do not mean that I have gone to the bad place?"

"No, you have not gone to the darkest place," I said, "and you will find your way to heaven by and by."

"But why was I drowned? Why did the ship go down? It was such a beautiful ship, and we were so happy playing about the decks!"

"You were drowned because Germany is at war with England."

"But why should they drown me?"

"In an attempt to prove that England does not hold the seas."

"But what has that to do with me?"

"Nothing, my child. It has nothing to do with you. You are only a helpless victim."

"But who drowned us?"

"The commander of a submarine."

“Is he a very bad man?”

“I cannot imagine a good man doing it.”

“And why can’t I find my mother? Was she drowned, too?”

“I don’t know yet.”

“Then you don’t know everything?”

“No, I don’t know everything.”

“Are you an angel?”

“No, I am not an angel.”

“What are you, then?”

“A man.”

“And were you drowned, also?”

“No, I came to the other world more than three years ago.”

The child began to cry. Did you suppose that children never cried after death? Dead children often cry. Would you not cry at the thought of being drowned, if you woke and could not find your mother?

I too could have cried with the child, for I have had children of my own, and one of them died young.

“Have I been very bad without knowing it, that I should be drowned like this?” asked the little girl.

“No, I do not think that you have been very bad.”

As we passed across the rough waters we saw the corpse of a woman floating face upwards in the pale light. The child could see it dimly, though not so well as I.

Have you ever seen a living child weeping over the soulless corpse of its mother? If that seemed sad to you, would it not seem sadder to see the living soul of a child weeping over the corpse of a mother whose soul was absent? To me it was the most pitiful of all sad sights.

“Come away, little one,” I said, “your mother is not here.”

A little farther on we saw the body of a child also floating face upwards in the pale light. I knew whose body it was, and so did the child.

“Why, it isn’t pretty anymore!” she said. “Come away, little one,” I repeated, “come and look for the mother.”

But she seemed held fast near the floating thing in the water. No, it was not pretty; but the soul beside me was very beautiful for all its sadness.

“What will become of it?” she asked, awestruck.

“I do not know.”

“Do you think they will bury it somewhere?” “If they find it they will bury it.”

“Could you not tell them where it is?”

“If we wait to look for them, we may not find the mother.”

We met many women passing to and fro over the water, mothers looking for their children, wives seeking their husbands, some seeking their own lost forms, others merely passing to and fro in bewilderment and grief.

“It is very sad to die,” said the child.

“It is not always sad to die,” I answered. “It is sometimes beautiful to die.”

“Where is the man who drowned us?”

“Why, do you want to see him?”

“I want him to see me.”

“He will see you his life-long in dreams,” I said, “whether he lives to be old, or dies tomorrow.”

Coming toward us across the sea was the form of a woman wringing vapory hands.

“Where is my child? Where is my child?” she was saying over and over.

“Mother, I am here!” cried the little girl, and the two forms melted in a close embrace.

“I have found you! I have found you!” the mother and child repeated over and over, as they clung together.

I remained near them a little while, for I wanted to help them to free themselves from the sadness of their fate.

“Will you not come with me?” I asked them, when they could listen.

“But where shall we go?”

“Away from here.”

“I want to go home,” said the child.

“We are homeless now,” the mother answered; “we are in the other world.”

“Then you also know what has happened?” I asked her.

“Oh, yes, I know, I know!”

“Will you not come away with me?” I repeated.

“Are you an angel?” asked the mother, even as the child had asked.

I told her who I was and what I was doing there.

“Is there no help for us?” she asked.

“It is to help you that I have come.”

“But where shall we go?”

“Anywhere, away from here.”

As we stood talking together, another woman came toward us looking for a lost child; another child - not hers - came toward us looking for a lost mother.

I am willing to tell you that I did not well know what to do with all these stricken souls. Where could I take them for rest or comfort? The whole astral region around the earth is full of sadness and crying. Only the strongest and most resolute souls can get far enough away to escape the gloom and the horror. And these newly arrived ones have not the strength; for you must know that in this world we go where our desires and our thoughts go, and we go with our fears and our griefs.

I led the mother and child to another part of the world, and left them with others in the care of two ministering older souls who have given themselves to this sad work. But as one cannot teach a child the differential calculus, so we cannot take to the lofty regions of peace those beings in whose hearts there is no peace.

I shall ask the advice of the Teacher as to how much I should tell the world of the awful conditions around us.

Even the restoration of peace on earth will not immediately purge the astral world of the sores of war. You think that you suffer - and I know better than anyone else how much; but you can escape into the material world, you can walk on the green hills in the sunshine, you can rise occasionally to the place of spiritual calm above the conflict astral and material. These millions of grieving ones cannot go back to the physical, and few of them can yet rise to the spiritual. Their immediate future is a problem for the greatest of the Masters, a problem that taxes the wisdom of the Masters of wisdom.

Hold steady, you for whom there is another day of anxiety not far off. Hold steady; for though you may not realize it, I to whom you look for strength find also strength in you. That is a mystery which I may or may not explain by and by. You are a solid platform from which I can spring, when I need the force of a material base. I shall not over-use it.

If you are unable to stand the strain, alone as you are now, you may communicate with my son; but do that only as a last resort. You must learn to stand alone.

In my other writing the strain on you was far less, the demand on you far less, the need of your strength far less. You could not have done then what you are doing now, nor could I have done then what I am doing now.

Again I say, hold steady.

The wounds, the tortured faces which you see at night, the pitiful appeals for help which you try to answer, are only typical of what we see and try to help, nightly, daily and hourly.

I have used the actual substance of your etheric body to build myself an optical instrument, through which I can see into the sun-lighted world - your world. You will suffer no injury in the long run for this loan that you have made me. Have you not pledged yourself to the service of mankind? Mankind are out here as well as in there, and the eyes I have built of your substance have enabled me to do service which otherwise I could not have done.

Count that with your good karma.

May 13.

LETTER XL

THE HEIGHT AND THE DEPTH

Do not lose faith in the future of the world.

Have you not studied the Law of Rhythm? Do you not know that the height is equal to the depth, and that when things are at their worst they are getting ready to improve?

Life moves rapidly in these Twentieth Century days. A thousand years ago it would have taken a decade to accomplish the horrors of the last ten months. Perhaps the reconstruction will be equally rapid.

Do not lose faith in the future of the world.

There are even Germans who repudiate the sinking of the Lusitania! All is not well in that Empire, from the standpoint of the Empire.

Be poised, and await the issue.

May 14.

LETTER XLI

A CONCLAVE OF MASTERS

Some day the races of men will return to the love which they have now forgotten.

Some day German and English, Italian and Austrian, French and Turkish, will all sit together at the banquet table of life and drink to the health, not to the death, of one another.

And that day is not so far distant as the present hate and slaughter would indicate.

There is peace after strife, and love after hate, and sunshine after the storm.

Love and hate! To know the one you must have seen the other. Surely I need not tell you this! What did you know of love till you had been hated?

Love and hate are the twin-born children of emotion.

Some day men will look for their enemies *within themselves*; some day men will fight the evil in themselves, and then they will not need to slay their brothers. Some day love will re-establish itself upon the pedestal of the world, and hate will return to the shades.

I have told you of the evil beings who brought about this war. There are also loving beings who long to do away with war between brother and brother.

To-night in the spaces above the world there is a strange quiet. Is it the quiet before the storm, or the quiet after the storm? It is all rhythmic. Be poised and wait, trusting in God.

Some storms clear the air. The present thunder and lightning will clear the air. Yes, the world has been too sultry, and the atmosphere had to be broken.

Do not cry out, do not weep, do not laugh. Be quiet, and trust in God.

What do I mean by God? Look deep in your heart and see I AM THAT I AM.

In the childhood of the world men believed in a Power beyond themselves. Now in the maturity of the world men believe in a Power within and beyond themselves. That is God, I AM THAT I AM!

Seek the high place of the Spirit and prepare yourself for the service of the world. The Spirit is crucified on the cross of the world. Christ clothes himself in matter that he may raise it. Love wears the garment of hate, that love and hate may become one.

What do I mean? Do you not know that love and hate are One Thing - the eternal opposites that complete each other?

When hate rests, love comes into its own. When love rested, hate came into its own. This night do hate and love unite. Find out my meaning if you can. Look in the glass of visions and find the picture there.

The uniting of love and hate! There is a neutral point where the two join hands.

There is a council held this night among those who serve the world - a conclave of Masters. At what hour, you ask? Go to sleep, and learn the hour. If you are still enough, you may listen at the keyhole. If you are not still enough, you will hear nothing.

Do I seem to write strangely tonight? All things are strange to-night, if by strange you mean unusual.

Be still, and know that God dwells in the hearts of all men, though in some He lies asleep. For the God in you will sleep until you awake Him.

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”

Love your enemies, even when they smite you; for the God is asleep in those who smite with hate.

You will never understand your enemy by hating him. You will never understand the

Masters until the love and hate in you unite.

On the declaration of peace your love will flow out again to your enemy. Can you not anticipate the event, and love your enemy tonight? The enemy needs love when he shows least of it. Be still, and know that the world is the footstool of the Spirit.

Hate will not serve you. Hate never serves willingly. Remember the words of the Man-God, "Forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Go to sleep now, and listen at the keyhole of the Masters' council-room. You may hear things that you cannot tell the world.

May 14.

LETTER XLII

A LESSON IN THE KABALA

Shall I repeat to you what you saw in your vision of last night - the races of earth as the Sephiroth on the Kabalistic Tree of Life?

You know more of the Kabala than I do; but you would never have known the Kabalistic correspondences of the nations had they not been pointed out to you by the Teacher.

It is true that Germany (*Geburah, Mars, Severity, Pachad*) has become so extremely severe and Martian that the welfare of the whole Tree is threatened, the balance is upset; and it is through the strength of the United States, shown by a certain Yetziratic Path, and through the prudence of the United States in relation to another Sephira which represents the British Empire, that justice may be reestablished between Britain and Germany.

The Teacher has been instructing me in the Kabala.

And you also see by that vision the part which the United States has to take in the future of the world - that of *Chesed*, Mercy. That is the keynote of the Sixth Race, and Germany thought to establish it - the Sixth Race - in herself by blood and iron! 'What folly and short-sightedness!

You need not tell the world where the other races were on the Tree of Life in your vision, save that the Three Supernals are not represented by races on this material plane. That much you may state, on my authority, lest some German Kabalist should claim for the Teutonic race the place of *Kether*. No, the Three Supernals are not represented on the material plane.

Watch and pray that America may be guided aright. So far, she has been so guided. The great soul of Abraham Lincoln was with President Wilson during those days of retirement. Did I not tell you that he had renounced rest that he might watch over the land he died for, *when the day of her own great trial came?*

I shall tell you no more than my judgment dictates, day by day.

It is well that you were able to rise to the plane of that vision, lest you should become too warlike.

Now pray that the hands of the President may be upheld, and that his soul may be strengthened by the living soul of America's greatest son, Abraham Lincoln.

The future is on the laps of the gods.

May 15.

LETTER XLIII .

THE SECOND COMING

To those who have suffered in this war, either from wounds of the body or wounds of the soul, it has sometimes seemed that the Christ of the Christian world had turned His back and gone away, perhaps to some other star where His teaching could be understood and His law of love become a real influence in the lives and hearts of men.

But the Christ who died to teach men how to live has not left the world in this its hour of trial.

He is the same Christ of love and compassion; and whoever attempts to put in His place a Christ of hate and pitilessness, blasphemes His sacred name, and will one day pay the awful penalty of that blasphemy.

I have seen face to face the Christ who walked the world in Galilee. Are you startled, you Christians who hope to see Christ when *you* die? Why should I not see Him? Have I not served, in life and in death? Am I not serving now, to the best of my individual power? Yes, I have seen the Christ.

Look for Him to come again "in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory," though He may not walk the earth again in material form. What need is there for Him to walk the earth now in a mortal body, when more and more men and women are opening their spiritual sight, so that they can see Him while still held in their robes of flesh?

I have told you of the Beautiful Being on the battlefields, and now I want to tell you of the Christ on the Battlefields.

He was never afraid of pain, that son of Light, who showed the way of pain to the shrinking souls of men. The cross of Christ is a living thing, and its power will be felt more and more as the tired world recovers itself after its baptism of blood.

When the half-gods go the gods arrive. When Mars, the half-god, the war-god, is sent back to his place, the god of love and pity can make Himself seen in the hearts of men and women.

They are wise who hope for the Christian faith a renaissance of life. It had grown old and indifferent. Thinking itself saved, it had forgotten to save the world. Feeling itself secure, it let its security be surprised by Mars, the war-god.

Many a soul in its last hour of agony has seen the Christ; many a soul in France, in Belgium, in Poland, and on the war-rocked sea has recognized the Friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Many a mother has seen in true vision her dying son held up by the Christ. Catholic, Protestant, "free-thinker," they all have called on the Son of Mary to comfort their sons in the last dread moment and beyond.

From the shrieking hell in Belgium I yesterday saw a man, a common soldier, go straight from death into the high place beyond even astral turmoil, because in dying he called on the Christ of his mother's faith to take him away from strife to the heaven of peace above the world. Many have gone that way since this trial by fire began, but more have remained below. Few have faith enough for the great flight.

Whatever religion you work with, let it include the Christ and the cross of Christ! What other comfort is there for the soul that *feels* its pain and feels the awful sum of the world's pain at this time? Philosophy is good, I have called myself a philosopher; but love is the highest reach of philosophy, and Christ is the highest reach of love.

They talk of a new religion, as if the love of Christ were an old and worn-out love. The love of Christ is reborn whenever a soul in a flash of illumination beholds that mystery in his heart.

Worship the Christ in your own heart, for He is there. Worship Him in the heart of your friend, for He is there. Worship Him in the heart of your enemy, for He is also there. Then slay if you can, when you know whom you seek to slay.

A new spirit has entered the hearts of the soldiers. They fight on, but they have been told in dreams that they fight their brethren.

Murderers on the high seas, pirates under the eagle, they too are your brothers. "Forgive them; for they know not what they do." Conquer them, because you must; but do not forget that they are your brothers.

The Christ who hovers over the battlefields carries no flag. He is the first of the neutrals, because he loves all, even the pirates under the eagle and the murderers on the high seas. The Roman soldiers on Golgotha were not execrated by Him.

When He took upon himself the limitations of the flesh, He understood limitation by transcending it. We can never understand any limitation until we transcend it.

Who should know better than He the agony of torn flesh and broken bones and mangled nerves? Can the wounded soldiers teach Him anything? Can the betrayed world give Him advice in settling with its Judas? "That thou doest, do quickly."

The betrayer of the world has hanged himself already in his excess of zeal. When his

effigy was burned in Rome, do not think that he did not feel the fire. He felt it. The supreme War Lord has had one moment of sanity. Yesterday I saw his demon go snarling along the battle line. He did not snarl when I met him first, now many months ago.

If I could only make you understand that I speak of facts, not fancies! I have seen what I describe, as clearly as you see the table before you, or the pencil in your hand. When I say that I have talked with demons, I mean that I have talked with demons. When I say that I have seen the Christ, I mean that I have seen the Christ. I am not weaving romances, nor have I come back from my journey among the stars to compete with the spinners of tales. I write to reveal what otherwise would be unrevealed, to show to the world the causes lest the world go wrong with the effects. I want to help even the race that all other races, including its ally the Turk, now execrate.

Only the charity of Christ is wide enough to cover this world-betrayal. And I tell you the betrayers were egged on, inspired and themselves betrayed by the personal forces of evil, in their supreme effort to put back the clock of civilization.

But the Christ cast out devils and raised the dead. Can He not cast out these devils behind the purpose of war? Can He not raise the dead to the region of peace in the end? Can He not raise you to the level of His charity?

May 16.

LETTER XLIV

POISON GASES

Tonight I shall not prate to you of charity. Instead, we will speak of east winds and poison gases, and the demons that ride on poison gases.

All hell is again let loose upon the world. It is worse out here than during the month before the war.

For eleven days I have not been with you. I have had no time for eleven days to spend even an hour with you.

Were you strong enough to hear what I could tell, you would never publish it for the world; but I can tell you much which you are strong enough to hear and which the world is worthy to know.

East winds and poison gases! The very idea seems infernal, for men die in indescribable agony from the gases borne on those winds from the German camps over to those camps where rational human beings wage war by human means. But poison gases are demonic, and demons ride on them.

I have seen them come rolling forward in droves, their eyes aflame with hate, their mouths horrible with rancor and triumph.

Oh, you safe there as yet in your native land! Could you see behind the trenches of the enemy, could you see what lurks in the air above the camps of the enemy, you would even pity the enemy. I may tell you that many out there are stark raving mad.

When human beings, invoking the powers of hate, send such hell-fumes to choke and torture their fellow-beings, they have ceased to be quite human.

I, who see their souls, am sick with horror. It is perhaps well that you are alone now, for I may tell you things which you can best endure alone.

Were it not for the work which you have to do in future, were it not for this work and that which is to follow, I should take you out and away from the world for good, as far as this life is concerned. * * *

But you must endure to the end, as I shall endure to the end; for you have work to do.

Those who say that all is well in Germany lie in their throats, or they are hypnotized by the lie that holds Germany to the belief that she can conquer.

Could hell conquer heaven all souls would be destroyed. Should hate conquer now the world would be broken asunder.

Hate! You know not the meaning of the word. Hate of England, hate of America, hate of Italy! The race that inspired this war is poisoned to the last molecule with hate. Babies imbibe it with their mothers' milk and their stomachs turn sour. Children see it in their parents' eyes, and shrink away in fear of their own source. No, you know not the meaning of hate.

On the poison gases borne by the east wind there came across to me a demon with no eyes. Where did he come from? From some subterranean hell where no light is, and therefore no need for eyes. Could I draw, I could make you see him; but words were devised to express those things which are known in the experience of the race, and no one who has seen such things has used language to describe them. Groping his way, that astral monster fastened himself upon a human victim, a prisoner in the hands of the French - one who had spit at his keepers in the madness of hate.

No, I must not tell you what followed; but the astral soul of the prisoner went out of his body and remained out.

This attempt to tell the world what I know now is like trying to play Beethoven on a penny whistle. I feel as a mathematician would feel should he set himself down to teach addition to small children. I dare not tell you more than I do, for you could not contain it.

The world is old, and the world deemed itself wise, and the world has come to this!

There are many earnest souls who desire experience in the astral world. I have heard one say in your presence that a certain attack was "only astral." I listened, and said no word.

Do you know what the astral world is, you who seek knowledge of it? The astral world is the world of feeling, the world of emotion, the world of love and hate. The astral world at this time is so thick with evil passions that one could cut it with a knife. It is often cut with knives now, with bayonets, and the crowding demons suffer from contact with the steel.

“Only astral!” The astral world above New York, awful as you know it to be, is nothing to the astral world above those battlefields. Keep away! You can do no good there. If possible, go up among the mountains and seek in the pure breath of the pine-trees healing from the poison of the astral world above New York. Go there and stay there until the pressure is exhausted. You can do no good either where you are.

I can write better in the pure air of the pine woods. Get away from the poison fumes of unneutral New York, for devils ride on the winds of hate, and you are not to be destroyed by them.

You have work to do in the future.

May 27.

LETTER XLV

THE SUPERMAN

In one of the upper regions of the astral world - not in the region of pure mind but near it - I met a man last night who passed to and fro with his head bowed in thought.

“What troubles you, friend?” I asked, as I stood before him.

He paused in his restless walk and gazed at me.

“Who are you?” he enquired, listlessly.

“I am a Judge,” I answered.

His eyes brightened with interest.

“You must have come at the call of my thought,” he said, “for I have need of a Judge.”

“On whom do you wish me to pass judgment?” I asked, half smiling at his strange words.

“I would like you to pass judgment on me.”

“And your offence?”

“My offence - if it is an offence, and on that you shall give your opinion - is having led a nation to its undoing.”

“With malice aforethought?” I queried.

“With malice, perhaps,” he answered, “but not in the sense of your question. I never

believed they had spirit enough to believe me.”

“You pique my curiosity,” I said. “Who are ‘they?’ and in what did they believe you?”

“They are the Germans,” he answered, “the Germans whom I despised, and they believed my theory that man becomes supreme by doing what he wills to do.”

“And the devil take the hindmost?”

“Yes, and the devil take the hindmost.”

He bent on me his sombre eyes, and I waited for his words.

“What a folk those Germans are!” he said. “Whatever they do, they do too thoroughly. One cannot trust them with a great truth.”

“They do seem to have systematized you into the ground,” I answered.

“I wanted to make them gods,” he complained, “and I have made them devils.”

“God only can make gods,” I said. “Perhaps you were too ambitious.”

“Humph! Perhaps I was too confiding.” “Hermeticism is safer,” I suggested. “You told them far too much.”

“Or far too little, maybe.”

“In how many volumes?”

“Go ask the librarians. Not the foreign ones - they bind my works in packages of salable size.”

“And how can I help you?” I asked.

“Judge me.”

“While you prosecute and defend yourself?”

“Who else is fit, either to prosecute or defend me?”

“Go on with the prosecution.”

“I have corrupted a whole people, and led them to their ruin.”

“Elaborate the charge.”

“I thought to remedy their spinelessness, and following me with characteristic thoroughness, they have become all spine; they have neither heart nor bowels.”

“Continue,” I said.

“I preached Beyond Man. They have practised below man.”

“So far,” I interrupted, “you have prosecuted them, not yourself.”

“How can I charge myself without charging them?” he demanded.

“Then I will step down from the bench,” I said, “and talk with you man to man.”

“I am glad you didn’t say soul to soul.” “Oh, man is good enough for me! As I said

before, you were too ambitious.”

“Yes, too ambitious for man, too sick of man, too much in love with what man might become!”

“We have come already to the defence,” I said.

“The smell of the court is still about you,” he growled.

“You asked me to be your judge.”

“Yes, that is true.”

“I am sorry for you,” I said.

He smiled a sad and searching smile.

“You seem to have both heart and bowels,” he observed.

“And you have been too long alone,” I replied. “You have lost your gift of words. Shall I prosecute, defend and judge you? You can interrupt me whenever you like.”

“Go on,” he assented.

“You were born under a restless star,” I began. “You followed heroes; they disappointed you by being men. Then you made self your hero, and that disappointed you most of all.”

“You seem to know all about me.”

“That is the glory and the shame of your greatness, that one knows all about you.”

“I deny it! You do not know all about me.”

“What is it that we do not know?”

“You do not know how I loved man!” “You spoke of him with contempt.”

“That he might rise to Beyond Man.” “Oh! And drown the children on the Lusitania, and hack his way through Belgium, and turn every friend against him, and be the curse of the planet!”

He raised an arresting finger.

“You are speaking of the Germans,” he said.

“They are the only ones who have followed your philosophy to its logical conclusion.”

“And you taunt me with that?”

“I taunt you with nothing. I am stating facts. It was you who taunted them - to their undoing.”

“I only preached Beyond Man.”

“So far beyond man that man misunderstood you.”

“Is that my fault?”

“Whose else?”

“Not theirs?”

“Not altogether theirs. You hated too much. You taught them to hate man.”

“I taught them to hate all that was not Beyond Man.”

“But man is not Beyond Man, and so you taught them to hate man.”

“But they themselves are not Beyond Man!”

“They aspire to be. You taught them to aspire to be. They believed themselves Beyond Man, beyond good and evil. You taught chemistry to babes and sucklings, and they have blown up the nursery of the world.”

“I wanted only to teach them.”

“You should have begun with the a-b-c.”

“And what do you think is the a-b-c of Beyond Man?” he asked.

“The a is love, the b is humility, the c is truth,” I answered.

“And why did I not teach them love, humility and truth?”

“You knew not love, humility and truth.”

“I knew not love?”

“You knew not love.”

“And I knew not humility?”

“Your arrogance is a by-word.”

“And I knew not truth?”

“You knew but half the truth, and half the truth is not truth, as half an apple is not an apple.”

“Do you think I taught them falsehood?”

“The supreme falsehood, that they could be Beyond Man. They are not ready for Beyond Man.”

“But man must be surpassed!”

“Man must surpass himself,” I answered. “You see, there is a difference.”

“What should I have taught them?”

“That Beyond Man is the servant of man, not the bully and the tyrant.”

“But they would not have understood.”

“Be not too sure of that. Some few have understood the Son of Man.”

“Oh, him!”

“Whom you repudiated.”

“But he taught men to be slaves!”

"A good servant maketh a good master, and he that is greatest among you let him be the servant of all."

"Oh, if you are going to quote Scripture -"

"I quote *the Beyond Man*."

"And you believe -"

"I believe that you repudiated the only well-known example of your own ideal."

"And you also believe -"

"Yes, I also believe that you went mad because you saw too late that all your teaching was a lie. I believe that you had not the courage to repudiate yourself, and so surpass yourself; so surpass yourself and become yourself *Beyond Man*."

"Then you think I knew?"

"I know that you knew. I know that you had a vision of Him, that you saw where you yourself had failed to understand, and that you would not acknowledge your own new understanding - which came too late."

"You know too much," he said.

"You asked me to be your judge," I retorted.

"But not my executioner."

"You have been your own executioner, and the executioner of your people."

"My people!" His tone was scornful.

"Did I not say that you had no love?" I demanded.

"And what do you now bid me do?"

"Go back to the earth, and teach mankind how man can surpass himself. Go back to the earth, and teach men to follow the carpenter's Son whom you taught them to despise. Go back to Germany, and repudiate yourself."

"And how shall I go back?"

"In another body, of course, a clean and wholesome body, which you are to keep clean."

"What do you mean?"

"You know very well what I mean! I have told you that you had no love. You had only fastidiousness, and arrogance, and the desire for sensation."

"You have set me a hard task," he said.

"Eternity is long," I replied, "and the new Germany will have need of your new teaching."

"Shall I thank you?" he asked.

“There is no need. It is I who thank you for not appealing from my decision.”

“Good night,” he said.

“Good night,” I repeated.

And the soul of Friedrich Nietzsche passed on. Was it toward the gate of rebirth?

June 1.

(search for Friedrich Nietzsche German philosopher (1844-1900))

LETTER XLVI

THE ENTERING WEDGE

After our writing of last night, in which I told you of the tortured soul who asked my judgment on a course of teaching which had corrupted a nation, I went back to the battle line in France. (The Germans cannot sink me with their torpedoes.)

Passing slowly along on the German side, I saw again the tall majestic form, dark-veiled about the head, which I described to you in a previous letter.

This time I hailed him, without waiting for him to hail me.

“How goes your work?” I asked.

He threw back the veil which covered him, and I saw the dark and splendid face, marked deep by thought and evil.

“My work goes as it goes,” he answered. “And what have you been doing?”

“Writing to the world this evening,” I replied.

He laughed.

“Have you been writing about peace?”

“Not this time. I have been writing about a conversation I had with a great and troubled soul.”

“Yes, I know.”

“You know, do you? Were you listening?”

“Through my long-distance telephone.”

“Brilliant invention, the telephone,” I observed. “Did you inspire the invention?”

“I? Oh, no! I worked against it.”

“And why?”

“It is not well that man should know too much.”

“But when man makes discoveries, notwithstanding your efforts to hinder him, you attempt to use those discoveries against him, do you not?”

“Of course.”

“You interest me,” I said. “And were you interested by my conversation with the soul of Friedrich Nietzsche?”

“More interested than you can imagine, until I tell you why.”

“And you will tell me why?”

“There is no reason for my not telling you.

I am frank with those who see through me.”

“Why don’t you teach that to the Germans?”

“Because it would spoil my game. I want to destroy them after I have used them, and if they should turn frank, they would be so thorough in their frankness that they would disarm the indignant world.”

“They are frank enough in their brutality,” I said.

“Oh, yes! But that is another matter. Should they be frank in their repentance, the world would forgive them.”

“But what of Nietzsche?” I questioned.

“Only this, that it was I who inspired him.”

“You did your work thoroughly.”

“I do my work as thoroughly as it can be done.”

“Tell me more,” I urged.

“What a worker was lost in you,” he exclaimed, “when you chose good for your standard!”

“But I am an excellent worker,” I insisted. “I have even balked some of your work.” He laughed, a quick, sharp laugh.

“Don’t think that I care too much for that,” he said. “There is more than one road for me. If you block the door, I can go in by the window.”

“And how did you go in to Nietzsche?”

“Sometimes by one way, sometimes by another. He only locked his door against man, and you see I also am Beyond Man.”

“I perceived that at our first meeting. He who goes beyond man must make the choice between good and evil.”

“There is no fooling you,” he said, “and so I no longer try. Yes, it was I who inspired Nietzsche to preach Beyond Man to the Germans, who could only choose evil when they believed themselves strong.”

“And what do you get out of it?”

For answer, he asked a question:

“Did you ever play chess?”

“Often, in many lives,” I answered.

“Did you have an interest in the game?”

“A great interest.”

“Did you play for stakes?”

“Then what interested you?” “Why, the game.”

“Of course,” he said. “That is how I enjoy my game. I play to win, if I can. When I do not win, I have had the pleasure of the game.”

“And you played with that great man’s soul?”

“As a cat plays with a mouse. I found in him an earnest spirit, with a sore spot in his head and in his heart. He was an easy one.”

“How did you go about it?”

“By the usual method.”

“And that is?”

“Flattery.”

“And he did not smell a rat?”

“The rats were perfumed. He is an aesthete.”

“Do you always perfume the rats?”

“It isn’t always necessary. I perfumed yours.”

“Yes,” I said, “with the patchouli of peace. But I have a keen scent.”

“Yes, the Others have taught you too well.”

“Did Nietzsche ever see you as I see you?”

“He saw my distinguished face, and he felt the thrill of my power, and he envied and desired to be like me. It is great sport when these earnest mortals are ambitious to emulate me!”

“And so you taught him Beyond Man?”

“Yes, and I taught him to despise the One who was really Beyond Man.”

“Then you are not really Beyond Man yourself?”

“My head is. My other members are nearer the earth.”

“Notwithstanding the dignity of your presence?”

“Oh, there is a dignity in the earth and in what belongs to the earth!”

“Did the German philosopher ever know you for what you are?”

“Yes, toward the end, but then it was too late to undo my work.”

"Then also at the end," I exclaimed, "he saw the two forms of Beyond Man, you and the Christ!"

"Yes, he saw. The seeing drove him mad."

"And you have no remorse for your work?"

"Remorse? What is that?"

"Remorse is an emotion which men feel when they are conscious of having done evil."

"An emotion that men feel," he repeated.

"But I only feel those emotions of men which give me pleasure in the feeling."

"Such as?"

"You are really too curious and inquisitive!"

"Granted, my curiosity and my inquisitiveness," I said. "But it interests me, this labor of a lifetime, a man's lifetime, to make him an instrument through which all this could be produced," and I indicated by a gesture the battle line beneath us.

His eyes were brilliant with fire as he answered:

"What is the lifetime of a man in comparison to the glory of all this? One might labor a thousand years and produce nothing in comparison with this!"

"It pleases you then, this slaughter?"

"What a trifling question! It gratifies me, glorifies me, exalts me - all this carnage of battle brought forth by me and my kind."

"And did you have all this in mind while you were preparing one man to corrupt a nation by his writings?"

"Yes. He was the one perfect instrument. None other could have served our purpose so well - ambitious, dissatisfied, aristocratic, arrogant, unloving in the broader sense, capable of infatuation and hence of disenchantment, and last but not least, with eyes open to the vision."

"The vision of you?"

"Yes. He saw me first in dreams, and admired me, and desired to emulate me."

"And then you spoke to him of Beyond Man?"

"Yes, and I used the old arguments that women were of small account; that the love of woman stood in man's way; that woman enslaved man unless he enslaved her; that Nature was the devil, not the Great Mother, and so was to be combatted as far as possible; that man rose to Beyond Man by denying all that could influence him, including Nature, and by asserting whatever gave him freedom, such as his own superiority to all other beings, his mastery of them, his mastery of his own thought, his mastery of good and evil, of fact and falsehood."

"A fine combination of fact and falsehood, that teaching of yours," I said.

"Of course," he answered; "but what would you? Truth alone could never have produced this." And he swept with his long arm the line of battle beneath us.

"And what else did you teach your chosen disciple?" I asked.

"I taught him all that he taught the world. Whenever he drove a woman's face from his heart, I scored a point and he thought himself nearer Beyond Man. Whenever he swelled with pride and superiority, I scored a point and he felt himself nearer Beyond Man. Whenever he read the Gospels and sneered to himself at the humility of the so-called Son of Man, I scored two points - one against him and one against your Christ."

"Thank you," I said, "for enrolling me with the followers of the Crucified One. I am such a follower."

He ignored my last remark, and proceeded:

"I encouraged his wish to produce a new ideal of a leader, a new Christ, an Antichrist, a hard-faced German Christ, who should not win men by love and compassion, but by cruelty and hardening. Oh, I have done that work well! Many a German has exalted my ideal to the place of the Son of Mary. Many a German has put me in place of the Sun-God and hailed me as Beyond Man, though he was too cowardly to hail me frankly as Antichrist. Instead, he added my attributes to Christ and called us by one name, and by that name he sought to destroy all pity and compassion, both in himself and in others, sought to destroy all love that stood in the way of his becoming like me. It was I who taught him to exalt the cross as a symbol of cruelty, of sacrifice to himself, and not of himself for the love of man."

He paused, and gazed out toward the stars that shone serenely above us.

"You seem to me," I said, "to be yourself conscious of the superiority of Christ to Antichrist."

Again he ignored my remark, and continued the line of his own thought.

"What intellectual pleasure it has given me, this transforming of a Christian nation into monsters of egotism and cruelty to all things not their own! The foreigner was to be hated, despised, used, ridiculed, and whenever possible insulted. I taught them that such were the ways of Beyond Man, that so was man surpassed."

"But why do you tell all this to me?" I asked. "Why do you thus lay your cards upon the table, when you know that I hold a better hand?"

The eyes he turned to me were smouldering lakes of flame.

"Because I envy you," he said.

"Is that some new and more subtle attack upon me and the principles I stand for?"

The dark one laughed again, his sharp and mirthless laughter.

“Frankly, no,” he said. “You no longer amuse me as an opponent.”

“Which means . . . ?”

“That I throw up the game in weariness - this is, for the present. Already the souls I deluded are weary of me and my teaching. They have seen a new light - some of them.”

“Perhaps,” I said, “they have seen the light of the Christ, the true Beyond Man.”

“Perhaps,” he repeated.

“And have you seen it, too?”

“Faugh!” he said. “Are you ambitious to convert the devil?”

“Ah, no!”

Suddenly he turned to me:

“Will you take me for a pupil?”

“Again, no,” I answered. “You will make that request of some good woman, with a better chance of deceiving her.”

“So you know all the tricks?”

“My Teacher has taught me much regarding the ways of your kind.”

“Then I bid you good evening,” he said, and disappeared in the darkness.

World for which I write, I am telling you these things that you may be armored with knowledge. When Satan asks you to convert him, beware lest he convert you. When Satan points to Beyond Man, even to Christ, be sure that his Christ is not Antichrist; be sure He is full of compassion, that His heart bleeds for the woes and *weakness* of the world, that His crown of thorns is the mark of His sacrifice for man, and not merely a becoming ornament. For, as He said:

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”
And also:

“Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and shall deceive many, * * * for there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

June 2.

LETTER XLVII

THE NEW BROTHERHOOD

I want to speak of the new race, the coming race. The world is big with child, and the present generation will look with wonder into the clear eyes of the infant that shall redeem its parent.

Pin your faith to the standard of the new race, work for it, make the garments that it shall wear, and be ready for its coming.

Already you are in touch with those who will help in its training, who will be its teachers and guides. Give yourself also to the Great Work that is planned for America in the coming days. No, you need not spend all your time there; but do not remain away too long. Come and go, that going away you may receive new impressions, and that coming back you may bring the romance of older lands to entertain and inspire the new land.

But be ever loyal to the new.

In the untrodden wilderness of America there is strength that shall renew you from time to time. The cities of America will be redeemed by the wilderness. The cities are too worldly. They have forgotten God. In the open air, under the open sky, the message may be received by the awakened soul.

Send the children out to the wilderness to drink from the uncontaminated springs. The water that flows through lead pipes may refresh the body; but the water of mountain springs refreshes the soul.

Behind the veil of Nature is the face of the Great Mother, and though she does not always smile, yet her eyes are full of dreams and mysteries. Nature is not the 'devil. The devil is ever at war with Nature. Nature is Isis, the Mother. Do not listen to the blasphemers. They have confused the offices of Isis and of Typhon. It is Isis, Nature, which shall bring forth Horus. Go back to Nature and ask her for her message. She waits in the silence of the woods, and the voice of the brook is her whisper; when the wind stirs in the trees it is the rustling of her garments. The Mother is coming, O children of the new race! In her arms you shall know refreshing rest, and in her eyes shall you read the love that knows no selfishness, the bliss of self-giving.

Too long have you dwelt in cities, forgetting the Mother who bore you. Too long have you lived without the magnetism of the kind earth in contact with your naked feet. Too long have you trodden the dead, stony and unmagnetic streets, that take from you but give nothing. Go back to the woods and the streams. Read your destiny in the eyes of the stars themselves - not merely on a printed chart. Jupiter has a message for you which he will give only face to face, and so has the gentle Venus and the eager Mars. Go to them for your lessons, in the quiet of the hill-top alone with the Mother.

Do not set up your temple in the marketplace. Let your cathedral be the aisles of the

forest.

Go to the city when you must, for it is always well to know the opposite. The cathedral is stiller after the voice of the mart.

Give honor where honor is due, to those who have led the children forth to learn the mysteries of the primeval life. You grown-ups are only taller children. Dance in a ring round the mulberry bush or round the camp-fire. In the smell of burning wood the visions may come, as I wrote you once before of your wood-fires in Paris. But what is a wood-fire in a Paris grate compared with a camp-fire in the woods? Yes, I was there the other night, on the outskirts of the gathering, and I enjoyed it, too.

My greetings to the Chief!

The salvation of America lies in this wild-wood movement. Movement! Well may you call it that. It is stirred by the very forces of the earth herself; it is inspired by the race-spirit; it will go on and on, in ever-widening circles.

Whoever puts a stone in the way of this work will stumble over it himself. Whoever brings Satanism into this movement will be devoured by the demonic forces. There will not be enough left of him to grease two sticks for the camp-fire.

Rest you in peace. We watch, and with us the souls of all the thousands and tens of thousands and millions of native Americans, who cannot go on to their rest until they have passed on the torch of the Nature mysteries that were their heritage from their remote ancestors.

They may be despised by those who despoiled them; but their forgiveness shall redeem you, O America of the new race!

Do you not know that many of those who made their escape into the rest of the "happy hunting ground" are already coming back to incarnation in the land they loved before? Look at the high cheek-bones of many of the children, look at the eagle eyes and the straight taut forms.

O America, you did a great wrong once in the pursuit of your destiny! Yes, you did. Now strive to atone. Let the reincarnated red children play in the wild woods, teach them the old code of honor and courage, and they will work hand in hand with the reincarnated souls that came by way of Europe, hand in hand shall they stand together in the *Woodcraft Brotherhood*.

My salutations to the Chief!

July 9.

LETTER XLVIII

IN THE CRUCIBLE

I am still profoundly interested in the land that gave me birth. There are dark days ahead for her, and the great soul of Abraham Lincoln is very near to the helm of State at this moment, when peace and war hang in the balance and the action of a day may decide the question.

No irreparable injury must overtake this land. It is the great pioneer of race freedom. As I told you months ago, one of America's hands threatens the other, and both threaten the whole body.

May she keep peace so long as she can have peace with honor! But if the dark day comes, may she face it with squared shoulders; and if her foes be also those of her own household, it will not be the first time. A man once prayed to be saved from his friends, declaring that he could deal with his enemies himself.

The stillness of the Germans in America at this moment is potent with danger. If the hour comes when drastic action is necessary, they should be invited to return into the fold of their naturalization, and those who refuse should be dealt with severely, even to deportation. There yet remains one country which might receive them for transportation to that Fatherland they left - in quest of the freedom which they have now abused and betrayed.

The world is in the crucible, and Satan is in the laboratory with all his cohorts. Our labor is to stand. It is not always easy to stand steady.

Be calm, and trust in the Motherland that shall yet give birth to the new race, the synthesis of races.

LETTER XLIX

BLACK MAGIC IN AMERICA

You have seen pretty clearly the methods employed by the evil forces to balk progress, to destroy the work of centuries, to destroy the workers for the future, and to frighten away those who seek to interfere with this maliciousness.

Notice that none of this is constructive work. It is all destructive, all tearing down. Wars of construction have been engineered by angels; but this is not a war of construction.

Now let me tell you a few of the things against which the new race in America will have to guard itself. As always where the forces of progress are strong, the opposition is strong. I have written enough about the good influences of this new birth; but I want to give a few warnings, to analyze a few influences which are of a destructive character.

There is developing in America a great group of people who seek to gain control of

the desire-nature and the will of others, that they may use them for their own purposes. These people are not all in one place, they are not organized into one body but into many bodies, and some of them are working quite independently. But in the astral world, and in the language of us who work in that world, they are known as a "group."

They teach to those who will pay them, either in money or in service, certain rules for controlling the mind of self and of others. They teach the rudiments of astral knowledge to the many, and they teach more advanced principles to the few. Some of their teachings are true, some of their teachings are false; but there are few among them who undertake any real discipline of character with their students. As one profound teacher has said, for every step in psychic development, three steps should be taken in the development of character.

I need not name those who are most criminally active in teaching the formulas of black magic to men and women who are utterly unfit to be trusted with that knowledge.

The question will naturally arise in the mind of the reader, What *is* black magic? I think I have given a similar definition before, but you may restate it thus:

Black magic is an attempt to gain control over the will or the astral or the mind of one's fellows, through means other than the normal physical or the legitimate mental influence by word or pen; be it through the use of the elementals of nature, artificial elementals, or one's own mental or elemental nature.

Black magic may be deliberately used to influence, or black magic may be deliberately used to injure; and its votaries often employ *the substances of the body of the victim*, through which to gain sympathetic control of his astral and etheric nature.

I want to say to those who think it smart or amusing to fool with these things: Beware of any man or of any woman who by normal or abnormal means seeks to get possession of the fluids of your body, especially the blood and the other vital fluids.

I shall not go into detail here. Those who accept my warning owe me no thanks; those who disregard my warning do so at their own peril.

It gives me no amusement thus to thrust myself between the evil forces and their victims. By so doing I draw down upon myself the rage of those forces that I thwart so far as I can.

Be it so! I am competent to deal with them. And I want here to notify anyone who thinks to destroy my work, or to destroy those who with self-abnegation and selfless courage are helping me in the work of trying to save my country from the forces of hell which are now ravaging Europe - I want to notify any evil magician who is interested in this matter, that if he gets in the way of my resolve it will be he who will suffer and not I.

The ring which I and the Masters behind me draw round our workers can be passed with evil intent only at the peril of the one who passes.

This is no threat to use evil magic. We do not use evil magic. But we know how to deflect a malicious current from its chosen victim, so that it returns with overwhelming force upon its own source.

And I also want to say to those who in their ignorance or wantonness allow themselves to be used as catspaws to draw the devil's chestnuts from the fire, that fire will burn, and that the devil's hot chestnuts stick to the fingers. This is an unpleasant subject. I will now leave it.

Let me talk to those who are ignorant of these matters, and most people are ignorant - even those who have "studied psychism."

Many an innocent (or half-innocent) soul has been driven nearly insane by the pressure of the evil thoughts of others, by the will-driven thoughts of others.

Let me advise such not further to weaken themselves by fear, but to strengthen themselves by prayer.

I have said that there is a god and a devil in every one of you. Turn to the god for protection from the devil. If there were no devil in you, the devils of others could not harm you. Remember that.

Set your own devil to serve your own god.

If you want to use signs and symbols, meditate on the cross of Christ. The cross of Christ is profound enough for a lifetime's meditation.

Do not use evil magic to protect yourself against evil magic. Call on the god within to send evil back to its source.

Protect yourself before sleep by prayer to your god for protection. The evil workers can sometimes reach your soul in sleep when they cannot reach you while awake. The child's prayer, "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep," is more potent than a magician's spells.

Childish, you say? Yes, but I am writing now for those who are children in these things, be they seven or seventy.

Of all countries on earth, America is the most abysmally ignorant of the dangers of evil magic. Be willing to be children until you acquire adult knowledge of these subjects.

"I am in no danger, for I understand these things," is often said with self-gratulation by these who are in the very grip of the evil forces. Truly, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

If you want an added protection, my children, guard your own evil passions and resentful thoughts, your jealous emotions and unkind criticism of others. The devils ride on waves of anger and resentment.

Beware also of temptations, remembering that young souls are tempted through their faults, greater souls through their virtues.

Be not deceived into saying there is no evil. Evil is - so long as good is.

“Beyond good and evil” is a state to which few of you can aspire, and you have no conception of it. But “beyond good and evil” is a mighty slogan for the temptation and bewilderment of vain souls.

When you are really beyond good and evil you will not gossip about your neighbors, nor envy them their charm or their possessions, nor try to use them for your own ends, nor worry lest some evil person shall do you harm, nor twist your faults till they seem virtues, nor deceive yourself as to your motives.

Examine yourselves, my children. Look for your faults. If you can find no fault in yourself, hang your harp on the nearest willow, for your progress is at an end.

Man progresses through recognizing his faults, through transmuting them and transcending them. If you are perfect, this world is no place for you.

“Beyond good and evil,” indeed!

Judge not, that ye be not judged. But do not flirt with the devil to prove that you judge him not.

Yes, all men are your brothers, even bad men. Attend to your own affairs, and leave the issue with God.

This much to you, dear children of the world, from my vantage place above your passions.

July 25.

LETTER L

THINGS TO REMEMBER

That the contents of this book may become the possession of those who want it, I will now bring it to a close.

One might go on writing forever about the astral incidents of this war, and not exhaust the subject. What I have been able to give is a mere sketch, a few incidents, a few suggestions.

These things, however, bear in mind:

That there are angels as well as devils in the neighborhood of the battlefields.

That those who see the war from above see causes as well as effects, and from those causes can draw sane conclusions based on a richer fund of data than that available to the men of earth.

That war, like everything else, has its rhythms. Do not be discouraged when the

pressure of battle bears heavily on the side that you call yours. If your side went forward too quickly, you would need to look for a violent reaction, as in the retreat from the outskirts of Paris.

That though evil is a necessity so long as good exists, though evil is the other pole of the magnet, yet it is the duty of those who desire to walk the White Road ever to do battle for the right. And this is no repudiation of the saying of the Christ, "Resist not evil." A paradox, you say? Great wisdom is locked in paradoxes, for those who have the key. The existence of evil gives greater strength to good. This is the Kali Yuga, as the Hindoos say.

That this war is an attempt of the personal evil forces to destroy mankind. A former attempt was made in Europe before the so-called Dark Ages, but the Renaissance followed and restored the balance.

That man has in himself both the Christ principle and the demonic principle; that will is free, and that man can make his choice between them.

That new races are born of revolutions and wars. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

That though I may have a wider sight than you, I do not know everything. I draw conclusions from premises, the same as you do. I predict the probable effects of causes known to me; but a sudden irruption of free and erratic will sets up a new cause, and my calculation has to be made afresh. My predictions are not the result of divine omniscience. I see further than you, that is all. My logic may be no better than yours. For instance, when we drove back the forces of evil during the early months of the war, I forgot the Law of Rhythm that would enable them to roll forward again when they had generated another supply of strength. Even devils generate their own strength. Yes, they too are Units of Force, and must be figured on as such. I shall not make that mistake again.

My Teacher, who stands beside me at this moment, directs me to say that even the Masters do not know everything. As my vision is wider than yours, so their vision is wider than mine; but they cannot always see what goes on in the farthest stars. They invite you to become like them; but they know that you are held by rhythmic law, and that for every two steps you take toward them, you will fall back at least one step. That you do not fall back two steps is because of your free will, and because of that greater rhythm which urges mankind to the flood-tide. Each achievement is a ripple in a larger wave which you cannot always see.

I have been requested to write further of my Teacher, but my Teacher wishes to remain in the background. I may tell you this, however, O world! my Teacher still has a physical body and walks the earth as a man. He works in both the material and the astral worlds, and in higher worlds beyond them, and the purposes of his life are outside your comprehension. He is a servant of the Law, and his joy is in working with the Law. The Black Masters, for there are Black Masters, work against the Law.

I have told you of my conversations with one of them, and have given you a hint as to his methods.

When you are strong, you need not fear the Black Masters. You may pass the time of day with them, as I do. They are far more afraid of me than I am of them. I do not go out of my way if I see one coming. I find them rather diverting, though I recognize the tragedy of their lot. They fill a terrible office, which must be filled, and their sufferings are great. They are the erring brothers of the White Masters. In the beginning they were trained in the same school; but the great "moment of choice" came, and the evil ones separated themselves from their source. The White Masters do not seek to destroy them, knowing that in the end they will destroy themselves. Why waste effort in striving to hurry the sunset?

Do not let the black Masters and their servants mislead you, and avoid them if you can until you are stronger than they. But when you are stronger than they, you have nothing to fear from them.

When they cannot affect you directly, they strive to affect you through those you love. Be at peace. You are not your brother's keeper. If your brother delights in the devil, let him have the pleasure of his preference. Will is free.

Give testimony of the truth that is in you; but do not attempt to muzzle the hounds that bay the summons to the witches' sabbath.

Enter the Holy Temple and shut the door; then invoke the angels. The baying of the hounds cannot drown the music of the angel voices.

Be still, and know that God is God.

A great day is dawning for America - after a time of trial. The sun will rise from behind a bank of clouds; but in the freshness of the dawn much labor will be done for the new race, and for the Brotherhood of races. All over America movements will be started for the training and perfecting of mankind. Give them your help, for thus you will be working with the Law. Thus you will be learning the first lessons in the school of the White Masters, whose watchword is Service.

Though I am not going far away this time, yet I leave you my blessing, O world that I have labored and suffered for - far more than you know during the last hard year.

And I want to thank the world for its great interest in my former book, "Letters from a Living Dead Man." Yes, I am living still, and am far more alive than when I wrote for you before. Little by little I am growing into an intensity of life which I could not have imagined when I walked the earth as a man among men.

In these War Letters from the other world I have tried to give you glimpses of that intenser life which I lead now, after my return from the journey among the stars. I had thought to tell you of that journey when I should return again; but the story would not have been so instructive at the present time as this story of the war in the astral world. For you are nearer the astral world than you are to the stars, and until

you learn the a-b-c you cannot read and understand romances.

I am only a humble servant of the Law, a learner in the school of those who are wiser than I. To get, I must give. To learn, I must teach. To go forward, I must try to bring you forward with me.

It has seemed to me that what the world needed most at the present time was a knowledge of the mysteries behind this war. I have been an unseen soldier in this war, in which I have received many a wound. I have had my nights of vigil and my days of labor; but they have given me a strength that I could not otherwise have gained. I am strong because I have served.

Serve you, and the reward will come in due season!

I am going to rest now for a little while, because I have another service to perform in the near future.

I shall not go far away.

“X”

July 28, 1915.

THE END.