

Extracts from reply of Mr. Alexander Fullerton to letter from Mrs. Marie B. Russak, one of those present with Colonel Olcott when the apparitions occurred, dated Adyar, Jan. 7, 1907.

Mrs. MARIE B. RUSSAK,

NEW YORK, FEB. 20TH, 1907.

c. o. "Theosophist", Adyar, Madras, India.

MY DEAR MRS. RUSSAK:

I sincerely and warmly thank you for all the trouble you have taken in forwarding to me the two batches of documents from Adyar, as the doing so involved no little work and care. I need hardly say that these documents are of the greatest interest. At the same time it would be utterly uncandid in me to refrain from frank and explicit statement that I am obliged to utterly repudiate all faith in the genuineness of the alleged vision of the two Masters and all acceptance whatever of the directions voiced by the figures personating Them. In view of the circumstances of the case, notably Colonel's obvious prostration of mind and body, and in view of the contents of the alleged messages, there is not the faintest doubt in my mind that Colonel and yourself have been the victims of a most gross and deliberate imposture.

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The type-written letters to C. W. L. and to myself are so utterly unlike the well-known style of Colonel's diction that they never could have been written by him while in normal condition and were evidently composed under an external influence, probably some psychic entity able to play upon a weakened and disordered instrument. The attenuation of X's culpability; the utter failure to treat the iniquity of his fastening upon small boys a disastrous and degrading habit as anything more than a pardonable error of judgment; the rather comic dodging of the question as to whether he is an impure man; the evident ignorance that the making the X affair public was the act of an unknown person receiving my circular, and that Colonel's public Official Notice was absolutely necessitated by the conditions of the case; the direction to Colonel that he should write and apologize to X; the message to myself in which my stern attitude towards the X iniquity is characterized incorrectly as "bitterness"; and the utterly false assertion that Colonel and I had spoken of X as a "moral suicide" and a "sexual pervert"—expressions which I have never on any occasion or to any one made use of. All these things demonstrate clearly that the vision at Adyar was assuredly not of our two revered Masters but of some entities simulating Their appearance and voice and putting out statements utterly impossible to Them.

At the head of the paper called "A Conversation with the Mahatmas" is the direction signed H. S. O., "To be published in the 'Forum'". Now the "Forum" was seized by the Judgeites at the secession in 1895 and is not carried on by them or by us. Colonel knew that as well as I do, and his mention of the "Forum" as the vehicle for publication of the paper is further evidence as to the then condition of his mind.

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With my deep attachment for Colonel and my profound respect for his character and work, it is a sore grief to me that his closing weeks were a time of mental decline and of liability to false influences from without, and I mourn over the fact that advantage was taken of his prostrate state to impose upon him beliefs and acts so disastrous to the T. S. and so beclouding his great name. No one who realizes the actual quality of X's doings before and since the exposure, and who knew Colonel's strong condemnation of acts which were ruinous to the victims and a blow to the Society he so dearly loved, can believe for a moment that the recent utterances would ever have been possible to Colonel if his mind and body had been in normal state. Pray believe that I impute no blame whatever to him; far from it. Instead of even partially reconciling me to the obviously-desired return of C. W. L. to the Theosophical Society, the effect is to make me more resolute than ever that he has no proper place within it and that under no conditions should he be allowed re-entrance.

I lament that you have been made a victim to this artful imposture, and yet I suppose that almost anyone in such surroundings and subjected to so strong an illusion would have been beguiled.

Very faithfully and fraternally yours,

(Signed) ALEXANDER FULLERTON.