

1.1.7.

I. i. 4.

A very uninteresting package 4.7.4

PAX

Letters from A.C. to G.M. Cowie (Frater Fiat ~~Frater~~)

Dec 1912 - October 1914.

Copied from carbons in the possession of K.G. Germer.

~~over~~

They were stolen by a wild cat O.T.O.
group from Germer's widow and may
have been destroyed. None of the
material appears to have surfaced
No date (1979)

T in a bracket is a note by me 4.7.4

I
A.C. to G.M.Cowie. 30 Dec 1912. 33 Avenue Studios, South Kensington.

Dear Mr Cowie.

Thank you for your letter. I would be very pleased to breakfast with you at Ivanhoe Hotel at 9 o'clock, if this would not be too early. There is much for you to do in your short visit, and it is my rule to arrive at "The Equinox" approximately at 10 o'clock.

We are all anxious to see you.

Yours very truly.

to H Crossley Esq. 10 Jan 1913. 33 Avenue Studios, 76 Fulham Road. S.W.

Dear Sir.

I am desired by the Chancellor of A.A. to inform you that the Headquarters of the Order have been removed to larger and more suitable premises. Facilities are now at the disposal of brethren for working at headquarters under supervision, thus enabling them to correct erroneous methods of working, etc.

Further, the Chancellor would like to have details of the work you are doing, if any; the results of such work, and the difficulties you may have incurred, and any other information relative to your work on the Path.

Please address your reply to the Chancellor at the above address.

Yours fraternally.

3
Liber Samekh (Stet) (DCCC)
Appendix IV Majorik.

A.C to Cowie. 24 Feb 13. 33 Avenue Studios.
Care Frater.

I am glad you are getting on better generally speaking. The Meditation looks to me as if it were going fairly well.

We will arrange for a three month's retirement for you at an early date. If you are studying the Bornless One, try and get a very clear idea intuitively of what the ritual really means, making an astral explanation similar to the one I gave you for 671-?

With regard to Hor and Apep: this is the combination of Horus and Set, which is the Great Mystery, similar to the identity of Osiris and Typhon.

Brother Windam is going to be in Glasgow one day next week, and perhaps may be able to run over to Edinburgh, or, on the other hand, you might be able to go to Glasgow to see him. [Book of the Law]

Of course Liber Legis could be photographed, but it would mean a lot of expense; otherwise I should have had it done years ago. There is also an objection, that the writing is rather difficult, - at least in the manuscript I saw - and I would rather have a sort of copperplate copy.

What you say about Liber Legis is naturally true; so much the worse for its enemies.

Mother (Miss Leila Bathurst-T) is very flattered at your kind messages. At present she is going wildly with the girls into Abyssinia, and intends to abide and rejoice. Wieland has gone for his holiday. Yours in a great hurry but none the less fraternally

libr 44. App 6 Mapich 2

31 March 1913

Care Frater.

Thanks for your letter of Sunday. We shall be very glad to see you on Sunday, the 21st April. I am glad you are starting the Mass of the Phoenix. It was not worth while to wait and worry about all sorts of accessories. You ought to be far enough advanced to work as recommended in Liber CLXXV, paragraph 15. *[libr Astarte vel Bonylli AM 6 Mapich]*

With regard to the Neophyte's Initiation: you may not know now consciously. In the course of a further result you may find out what really happened (vide Liber VII, Chap VII, verse 15) *[libr Astarte vel Bonylli AM 7 Mapich]*

Farewell for the present. Yours fraternally.

? to Cowie. 10 April 13.

Dear Mr Cowie.

I am in receipt of your favour enclosing cheque for £100, payable to me, and which I have just paid in to Mr Crowley's account. I am paying off the most necessary debts with that amount.

Very sincerely yours.

? to Cowie. 15 May 13

Dear Mr Cowie.

Your cheque for £50 received, which I have placed to Mr Crowley's account. Thank you very much. It has enabled us to finally settle one creditor.

In re your rope: I cannot find out anything about it, except that Miss Waddel opened the parcel. I have written her in regard to the matter. I am sending your glasses by this same post. I had wondered who they belonged to. I hope you are well, and send you my kindest wishes.

Yours fraternally.

A.C to Cowie. 2 July 13.

Care Frater.

The Studios (sic) is going to be vacant and very little office business doing (Miss Hobbs will be here to attend to what there is) from now till the middle of August; so that if you care to come up during that time for Meditation, you will be very welcome.

Yours fraternally.

8 July 13

Care Frater.

I am in too terrible a hurry to talk to you at all, but I have managed to find time to scribble the notes enclosed. I shall be in Russia, I imagine, for the next month. Will let you know.

Yours fraternally.

6 Sept 13.

Care Frater.

With Just back having done a great deal of work for once. You have got the wrong conception about that ritual. If you go on with Ceremonial, the right feeling will come to you. It is almost impossible for me to explain to ~~you~~ or describe. You might do it a million times and get nothing out of it, and then suddenly boil over. However the doing of it does produce a result in

subconsciousness which will one day flower, and that perhaps not when you are doing the Ritual, but something quite different.

Another thing is this: I think you will find it better only to resort to the Ritual when you feel a sudden inspiration to do so. That is my idea of combining Magick and Meditation. You go on with Meditation until you literally cannot stick it any more, and then you will say "Well, by heaven, I'll do that Ritual", and it works. Similarly you exalt yourself tremendously by a ritual and all of a sudden sit down in the middle of the circle and shut everything out. You catch the swing of the pendulum from motion to rest. The brain stops working, and there you are.

Your reply to Tahuti is, of course, silence.

You are quite wrong about your illumination again. It ought to have been as good as you could have made it, because it was only to be used once and then destroyed.

Overwhelmed with ~~No~~ X (Equinox Vol I No 10.T) so no more.

The Ragged Rag Time Girls will be in Edinburgh in 3 weeks. Mind you look up Mother (Miss Leila Bathurst) that Monday night.

Yours fraternally,

10

Leila Weddel

To Sept 13

I am not letting you down easily at all. Do read once more about the Ibis and the Humming Bird. I don't regard you as doing magick, but as learning how to do it. It takes a long while to count up to 99 and there is a very short distance from there to 100. I cannot tell where you have got to.

You should write to Mother at the Hippodrome, Leeds. (Name--Miss Leila Bathurst). I am sure she will be very pleased to act on your very kind offer.

About the 8th Aethyr, I don't think I can tell you anything. I am particularly warned not to instruct about it, but it is obviously intended for any one to do. Still terribly busy, so no more.

Yours fraternally. * In The Vision & The Voices in The Equinox

34

A.C. to Cowie (from carbon copies in possession of G.J. Yorke).

5 July 1913

Care Frater

10th 16 11
He went to Russia

I am going back to the 'solemn passionless profound' on Tuesday, I shall not be back until the middle of August, or perhaps the end. I am triumphant except about the proofs (note of one of the volumes of the "Equinox A.T.") of which they send a big bucketful every day, so that if you choose to come here on July 21, you will have no disturbance at all. Miss Hobbs will be here in the morning, but I imagine no one else at any time.

I am very glad you have found it satisfactory to take pains over the Ritual. You formulate the occupants of the Pylons by the simple process of creating them. You ought by this time to be able to visualize to such an extent that you can hardly distinguish between the planes, and further to project with sufficient vigour that to assure the presence of something so close to the material that as to make no difference. I will do what I can to help with the interpretation of the Ritual, but whether I can do so this morning depends entirely on the telephone. It is quite clear that you haven't developed your Astral body to the necessary point. I am absolutely snowed under with my proofs, so farewell for the moment.

Yours fraternally.

27 May 1913.

Care Frater.

12

I have just got back, and have read the "Transcendental Universe". It is rather interesting, but I think of no great value. This alleged contest between the intellect and spirit makes me tired. It shows a totally wrong conception of the nature of the cosmos. It is just as bad as the alleged antagonism between mind and body.

With regard to the other matter: if things go on as they are going now, everything should be satisfactory by the end of the year. I don't know whether this will seem to you too late. There is, however, another proposal, and, in fact, an agreement is being signed of the utmost satisfactory nature, but has not yet been carried out. A great deal of opposition has arisen, and it may conceivably break down altogether. I will be able to let you know definitely, I hope, in a few days. Fearfully hot, fearfully busy, so no more.

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Yours fraternally.

20 Nov 1913
Care Frater

13

I have not had time to write to you, and I have not time to write to you, but will you call on Williamson of 9 York Place, and ask him how much he would charge to draw up the little mortgage. (Note. Presumably on Blakeskine House. T).

I am going to Paris on Monday perhaps, but expect to be back on Dec 15, and then I suppose I shall not get away again. My only hope of spending the winter abroad is that they will put me in prison in Paris.

It is extraordinary that a man of your acuteness of intellect should be taken in by the shoddy and captandum humbug of the later Wilde. So far as there is anything in him genuine at all it was his ^(oscar) ~~see~~ itself and any sincerity which you may admire in 'De Profundis' is simply the ^(oscar) ~~host~~ yellow streak.

I am going to hear ~~parking~~ to-night. Of course, as a man I am an Irish rebel of the most virulent type, and I want ~~you~~ see every Englishman killed before my eyes: I would ship the English women to Germany, as I don't like Germans either. But, of course, speaking as a man of the world, I am a reactionary Tory of the most bigoted type, although a Pro-Boer; that is to say, my objection to the Boer war was the depreciation of property which it caused. I quite understand your own attitude, but it appears to me quite absurd. You have tried to judge the matter on general principles, without prejudice, and you have consequently no business to meddle with politics, which is entirely dishonest.

Yours fraternally.

13

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Yours fraternally.

19 Aug 14.

[Shd be after 16]

14

[or shd be before 17 after 15] 5 6

Dear C.F.

Glad to get yours of to-day. I came down from a mountain to find the Swiss had mobilized and all the railways held up, but on the first day possible I went to Berne where the British minister informed me it was impossible to get back, that the line had been torn up for 13 miles beyond the frontier, and that he could not get his own men through. Reduced to desperation I consequently took the train and came home without any difficulty.

I am very glad to hear you are getting on in the evenings. You should not worry any more about Asana, you can do it quite comfortably-a quarter of an hour is ample. At the end of that time you can change the position, and then get back to it when rested. You must remember that in all probability a few seconds are sufficient for the actual result to take place. Now that you can concentrate more or less well it is necessary to develop intensity of thought rather than a mere prolongation; you are evidently not holding quite steady; you must develop your vigilance further.

I have not made up my mind about the war at all. Neuberg suggests that it is the Overture of the Reign of Horus. I am hoping it will be over in two or three months. I think the War was forced on Germany by the diplomatic pressure of the last few years. It is the "Stag at Bay" business. This is the real meaning of the so-called miscalculations on their part. From the point of view of the result, however, it does not much matter why it was. To me it

4
 seems evident that their main complaint (? campaign.T) has been very much hampered, and probably enormous confusion is already existing. No one in the whole of history has ever tried to move troops on the present scale, and this is the sort of business which needs a good deal of practice. If the French Cavalry in the South manage to get in behind the German everywhere there will be an end to the War at once.

I do not think it much good worrying about Boleskine, and I should not communicate with Mrs Murray Leslie. If the War goes on we shall have to grow oats and potatoes for dear life, and ought to be able to make a very good profit.

With regard to business here we have ~~get~~ had a lot of letters from America on account of a lunatic's article in the "New York World" August 2nd. Get a copy if you can and judge what you miss by not being always here. Apart from that there is nothing doing, but then in August it never is. I am inclined to think that the whole incident will be rather good for us, but with regard to immediate interests, of course, there is a great deal of trouble because that wretched "Turn" of Mother's has not gone on yet, and although we are still hoping it seems rather doubtful as to whether it will get on at all for months.

not stopped Captive girls

Miss Hobbs has gone for her holiday, so I cannot shoot her for not having sent you proofs and so on. However her place is most ably filled. I am sending you 50 copies of the Manifesto: when you have worn them out we will send you some more. You ought to distribute them as widely as possible without reference as to whether the people seem suitable. There ought to be a lot of people about at present rather in need of an asylum, and, besides, I think the ideas contained are such as will appeal to nearly everybody in the present emergency. Write again as soon as you can.

Yours very truly.

P.S. The dunning letters have not been sent out yet, we were waiting to send the Manifestos with them. We shall get them off now as soon as possible.

15+/- [old 6th before 14]

A.C. to C Stansfield Jones. 20 Aug 14.

Care Frater

I enclose a Manifesto of the M.M.M. [survived in my collection
 a set of leaflets & pamphlets, 1 top
 12 Warburg]
 With regard to your letter of July 1st I asked you for the meaning of the Letters A.A. in order to stimulate your research. The vast countenance is very good, but you should not stop there. Your working out of these cycles is very interesting indeed. It is very curious that 2 should be exactly the opposite of 5, both these numbers being of a combative nature. 8 appears to be a perfect number, and all the others to contain all the digits, but only once each. I am glad you thought of this, and that you understood the value of producing geometrical figures to represent them graphically. There must, of course, be some formula which will cover the whole number of possible cases.

You ask how I could help you, what it all means. It always helps to get down to something deeper, and it always helps you to put two things together and make one of them.

I had a very curious sort of trance some time ago, I am not quite sure whether it was a trance or a dream, the circumstances were peculiar, but I got this statement:

Mental images leave no trace.

As you know matter cannot be destroyed, nor can motion, you can only transform them, but thoughts are apparently not eternal in this way. In my trance,

Name and Form

Feeling

or whatever it was, I had been reducing symbols to the Lingam and Yoni and destroying them in the combination of these two. In this way all things being illusion they could be destroyed, and were so. The practical issue of this is that one should take the Mahasatipathana Method of getting rid first of Nama and Rupa and then of Vedana, all things being thus mere mental perceptions can be concentrated in groups, and then be destroyed in detail by being equilibrated or married to their opposite.

This is another way of saying what I tried to say (in) Konx om pax, and rather reminds me of the instruction given in Liber 341 3rd Method. I am sure it is an admirable plan, and probably easier than going on with the Mahasatipathana practice to its bitter end.

I had the greatest difficulty to reduce Perception to Tendencies, and I do not think I have got it nearly right even now.

I append herewith a detailed criticism on the Zelator Examination.

Yours Fraternally.

16

Liber 341 in Aph 7 of Manus.

Fred Ahab

A.C. to C Stansfield Jones. 20 Aug 14.
Care Frater.

Thanks

In answer to your letter of July 22nd, I do not think there is any book on Astrology of any value whatever. The correspondence in 777 form as good a guide as you can have, but you are now competent to make your investigations, and I should strongly recommend you to undertake this; try and do it well and fully enough to publish.

With regard to your second question I think your plan would be excellent. I should lose no time in forming a group, but do it on your own personal responsibility and not as for the A.A. because the A.A. discourage group working, which is only another name for slackness and gossip, but by getting people together you may be able to stimulate one or two worthy persons to take up the cause. From the Manifesto you will see a design of the O.T.O. You could certainly establish it, but you should need to be initiated. Next time you are in England we could put you through the degrees and give you a charter without too much difficulty.

Yours fraternally.

A.C. to Cowie. 27 Aug 14. 12 17
Care Frater.

I am sorry to have been so long in answering your letter, but I have had no secretary, and I am too lazy to work without one. I suppose you have got manifestoes by now. You ought to be able to do a good deal now in all classes of Society by emphasising Section 5 and 16. You are at liberty to say that in view of the war the Grand Master General would be prepared to confer degr degrees up to the 5th on well and worthily recommended persons. If people had any sense they would be only too glad to jump at any form of insurance, at this moment it is exactly what is wanted. In case of the Sack of Edinburgh, it would be very useful to have someone to retire on and we could put up thirty people at a pinch. I enclose the cutting from the New York World please return as it is a unique and priceless specimen. Of course any Theosophists are afraid to mention us as I have exposed their ignorance so often and in such a way that no one can afford to ignore it. You know that Mrs Besant had to give up Krishnamurti, and I am told that it was the Equinox article which produced that result.

I want you not to make any mistake about the war. If you can get rid

* in Bolshevik Hours

Your faithful Yogi
" 6." Two Mapich

of any securities you hold at a reasonable price, you should do so and buy agricultural land with the proceeds. All those securities which depend upon general prosperity are waste paper, and their loss will of course react upon other securities. When the Government are borrowing money at 10 per cent as they will have to within 6 months, how much will Consols be worth? Please take this very seriously, I am talking about what I know. There is, however, a great chance for us, a great deal of the stock is valueless as far as England is concerned, but the O.T.O. and book 4 line are likely to come off very well if we can get enthusiastic workers. If you like to send down a small cheque weekly ~~be~~ no one will refuse. The Grand Secretary General has a trial week on Monday, but there is no money in it and there is a good deal of expense, the only object of accepting is to make it possible to book the thing in Australia and America and such ~~pp~~ places.

Looking up my Ceylon record you will see that before getting anything meditation was practically continuous throughout waking hours though its form varied to avoid fatigue. It is a pity your retirement has been spoiled, but are pretty lucky it was not a compulsory retirement for ever. I don't agree altogether with what you say about the alleged spiritual forces in the newspapers. The other man's point of view is quite different to yours, and he holds it just as strongly; I am not at all sure that he is not right from the higher point of view. The campaign of hypocrisy and humbug could not be worse there than it is here. Read through Liber Legis, that is the naked truth of the situation, so called civilisation is at an end, I hope for a couple of thousand years at least.

Yours fraternally.

28 Aug I4

18

Care Frater.

The cover (of the M.M.M. Manifesto. ?T), I told them to do it like the title page, but it does not matter very much.

I don't think I need say anything about your meditation, it seems to me that you are very near getting something very good, only for heaven's sake forget I said so.

Yours fraternally.

19

15 Sept I4.

To Cowie as Grand Treasury General M.M.M.
Very Illustrious and Very Dear Brother

I have pleasure in sending you the invoice for the printing of the Manifesto. It is a little more than I expected, but I think not unreasonable. I do not think there is any necessity for sending an immediate cheque. For the block making and odd expenses one may consider the cost of the 1000 as £25 that is 6d a copy, and this is not very expensive considering the excellent get-up, and the number of illustrations. The second 1000 ought not to cost more than half this amount.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order

db Adesku

14 Sept I4

19 20

Care Frater.

Thanks for your letters. I have not had time to answer them. I shall be stuck on this board for at least another fortnight, and the quack says it may be 3 months. The disease is alleged to be Phlebitis; its cause

x I think & Appls. And the other O.T.O. papers in VII VIII & IX dep. 10
and possibly some rituals

depress

is unknown. I am not sure that it was not a magical imprudence.

My vampire letter was only to say that by the banishing Pentagram and the Harpocrates formula, people could protect themselves, and offering to teach them gratis. Forgive me for not entering into the political discussion, as this illness has thrown me out of my stride, and made me busier than ever. It is in some ways a blessing, as I cannot waste any time in frivolities. I have already written an entire book of the utmost importance to the O.T.O. in its higher grades, part of my plan for preserving the knowledge through the cataclysm, so I will only say that your information about the war is to all intents and purposes nonexistent, like the poor deluded Germans, who are allowed to see nothing but the carefully prepared falsehoods. I thought you knew that that which can be thought is ~~falsehood~~ not true; but at least at your age you might realize that nothing with even a grain of truth in it is ever printed in a newspaper. I will declare this matter further to you if you come down to London.

Your remarks on cant are sublimely ~~humourous~~; I strongly recommend your reading Nietzsche without delay. If you want a real long job, you can try and find in his writings some of the opinions at present hysterically attributed to him.

By the way I regard my present calamity as in the nature of a warning to get my work done without any further fooling about. There is no reason for regarding it as serious, but it is one of those things which may suddenly become mortal without any particular excuse. You may find yourself in the position of being responsible for the publication of various manuscripts, and for the safe custody of others.

Yours fraternally.

Crowley to Cowie 7th. Sept. 14. (From a carbon copy)

4 21 *in Paris 7.9.14*

Care Frater,

I think the unfortunate female whose letter I enclose had better be in communication with you rather than with me. I find her psychology very complex, and even abstruse, and moreover she is more in your district.

Thanks for your letter enclosing 20s. Od in stamps. With regard to the poem: I should try the Scotsman and Herald. They can cut down the poem if they like, and they can pay just what they think fit.

? 4.1.4

With regard to Mr. Nelson, his beliefs are all his own. The Foreign Office write that they are considering very seriously, my proposition of sending a special embassy to the U.S.A. You might mention this in confidence to the editor of any paper whom you saw, or any publisher whom you might interview; to indicate that publication would be decidedly pleasing to the Government.

Now to return to your letter received this morning, and the real object of the O.T.O. By the Ship I mean my play of that name in Equinox 10, but of course it is the Universal Ship. It does not matter since you evidently understand the importance of the present situation. I did not think of telling you about it earlier, as usual I assumed that everybody knew. I do not like to say definitely that the present row is the main catastrophe; I should not even like to go so far as to say that it was the forerunner of the great catastrophe, but from an ordinary practical standpoint one may, without in the least giving way to alarm, make preparations to meet the most serious eventualities. We have often been told, quite truly, that if the banks were to be called upon for ten million in cash, it would spell universal bankruptcy. Now, the actual situation is that cash is being called for by thousands of millions at a time. We have been a bare month at war, apart from the financial question, consider the actual destruction of wealth both in material and productive labour. As you see securities are practically unsaleable, and the unemployment has already become acute. Imagine this continuing for a couple of years. Wait only till the cold weather. What can be expected in every capital of Europe but riot and revolution? This, by the way, is clearly indicated by the figures for September and December quarters in which Saturn is rising, and the rest of the planets seem to have entered a competition to raise trouble for everybody. I did not know until June 1912 the tremendous importance of the knowledge held by the O.T.O., and even when I knew I did not realize it. It has taken me practically two years hard work to assimilate the instruction then received in three short words. I have not even yet done a tithe of what is to be done. The occurrence of the war has caused me to redouble my efforts; to conclude a thoroughly scientific investigation.

[Refers to the Paris Working]

We had a great attempt at this in Paris for six weeks, beginning with Jan 1st. this year, but I was proceeding at somewhat unorthodox lines, anyhow, the record although a highly important document, is only one brick in the Temple. I have been criminally careless about my record of late, but I am now making amends; but I know already a good deal of the importance of this Secret. I

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? 4.1.Y

With regard to Mr. Nelson, his beliefs are all his own. The Foreign Office write that they are considering very seriously, my proposition of sending a special embassy to the U.S.A. You might mention this in confidence to the editor of any paper whom you saw, or any publisher whom you might interview; to indicate that publication would be decidedly pleasing to the Government.

Now to return to your letter received this morning, and the real object of the O.T.O. By the Ship I mean my play of that name in Equinox 10, but of course it is the Universal Ship. It does not matter since you evidently understand the importance of the present situation. I did not think of telling you about it earlier, as usual I assumed that everybody knew. I do not like to say definitely that the present row is the main catastrophe; I should not even like to go so far as to say that it was the forerunner of the great catastrophe, but from an ordinary practical standpoint one may, without in the least giving way to alarm, make preparations to meet the most serious eventualities. We have often been told, quite truly, that if the banks were to be called upon for ten million in cash, it would spell universal bankruptcy. Now, the actual situation is that cash is being called for by thousands of millions at a time. We have been a bare month at war, apart from the financial question, consider the actual destruction of wealth both in material and productive labour. As you see securities are practically unsaleable, and the unemployment has already become acute. Imagine this continuing for a couple of years. Wait only till the cold weather. What can be expected in every capital of Europe but riot and revolution? This, by the way, is clearly indicated by the figures for September and December quarters in which Saturn is rising, and the rest of the planets seem to have entered a competition to raise trouble for everybody. I did not know until June 1912 the tremendous importance of the knowledge held by the O.T.O., and even when I knew I did not realize it. It has taken me practically two years hard work to assimilate the instruction then received in three short words. I have not even yet done a tithe of what is to be done. The occurrence of the war has caused me to redouble my efforts; to conclude a thoroughly scientific investigation.

[Refers to the Paris Working]

We had a great attempt at this in Paris for six weeks, beginning with Jan 1st. this year, but I was proceeding at somewhat unorthodox lines, anyhow, the record although a highly important document, is only one brick in the Temple. I have been criminally careless about my record of late, but I am now making amends; but I know already a good deal of the importance of this Secret. I

think it is not too much to say that if all the accumulations of human knowledge was suddenly destroyed, they could be replaced in a very short time by this means. Unfortunately this Secret is in possession of very few, and it is quite conceivable that all the holders might perish within the next year or two. A part of the instruction of the IXth. degree is in these words: "Trust not a stranger; fail not an heir". In such circumstances my personal role becomes very important indeed, owing to the accident that I have the gift of expression. What has to be done is to see that this knowledge is clearly stated, yet in such a way that the ordinary man will fail to understand it, and at the same time - and this is very difficult - it must be preserved in such a way that the ~~W~~inder shall be convinced of its supreme importance. I have not yet worked out how this is to be done, but I think it is already a step in the right direction to have the plates of steel; this has already been partly carried out. When the copies have been struck off, they might be filled up with some other metal, and then enclosed in something transparent and eternal. I believe it is possible to find glass which does not crumble. This might be then deposited in a vault, rather than on the limes of Rosencroetz, with all the available adepts of whatever grade entrusted with the whereabouts of the said vault, and pledged not to interfere with it, but at the same time to indicate it to the world at the proper moment. In order to carry out this or some similar scheme, we do not require a very large sum of money; small sums from time to time would, however, enable illustrious Brother Hammond to go on with his part of the work, the engraving, without interruption. I think it is also highly desirable to get part 3 of Book 4 into the press. The printers will probably want something on account; I think £20 would satisfy them. I think your scheme of the distant relation is admirable, the only trouble being, that he is likely to reply that he has not a penny in the world. You must not be depressed about things, on the contrary this is the exact moment for us to show what we are made of. I did not answer your letter before owing to pressure of other work.

With regard to the immediate prospects of the war, I suggest your trying geomancy.

Many thanks for the 10s. 0.d enclosed.

Yours fraternally.

Cart III in extended form is ~~Magick~~ in Theory and Practice.

Hammond never improved these plates. later in his life.

A.C. stressed the need for secrecy less and less.

25 Sept 1914.

Care rater.

Thanks for your letters of Monday and Wednesday. I seem to be a little better, but as the doctor has not been for over a week, it may well be all my morbid imagination. I think it will be better for you to come on the 29th so as to be able to take any steps that may seem advisable before the 4th Oct. the moratorium is the financial expedient of a congenial (sic) idiot, and its abrogation at a fortnight's notice, is the trick of a mischievous maniac. I suppose two thirds of the population of London will be turned on to the streets on the 4th October, and if they do not instantly start a revolution, they must indeed be fools. The hanging of Lloyd George is the only immediately practical measure which I can think of as likely to produce even temporary relief. I should take every penny that I could get hold of in gold, not silver or paper, and hang on to it for dear life.

With regard to your serious correspondent. I think she should be signed on (into the O.T.O. T) immediately. Our system is after all an extraordinary simplification; the complexity is due to the others, and the only difficulty that ~~arises~~ arises is owing to the fact that there was so much to simplify. But she need not worry about any such matters until she gets to the VII degree, which she is not likely to do for a while. In the first three degrees is obtained a complete picture of life and the point of view is bound to be extremely comforting, especially to one in her precarious condition of health. I do not know, by the way, whether this is sufficiently bad to prevent her going through ceremonies. If so, they would have to be explained to her. This is the sort of person whom I find myself able to comfort, and you ought to be able to do a good deal better than I can. I think there is no more to be said at present. I shall hope to see you in a few days. I return the letter as requested.

Yours fraternally

6 23

17 October 1914.

Very Illustrious Sir Knight and Most Wise and Excellent Councillor of His most Sacred Majesty and Most Dear Brother.

I was just writing to you when I received your telegram, to which I replied. I enclose you a cheque for £2.2.0 from Brother Steff Langston, for which you should send him a receipt; it is for his diploma. I also enclose you a little circular called "The Polite Letter Writer".

Murray Leslie sent me a postcard to say all was well, and that he had forwarded my correspondence to the principal. She apparently lives in the country, but I dare say you will hear early next week.

Things are now looking very much better in other directions. It seems possible that we may raise sufficient money to clear off all liabilities, but I dare say it may take some time to complete the transaction. The European situation, however, appears very bad, and I do not think that the organized lying of the press will help it. I met a lady yesterday who had come back from Antwerp. She says there is very

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Care rater

22

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Leila Waddel 13
14

Little of it left, and quite concurs with the criticisms of the Morning Post, the only newspaper left to us with even the smallest regard for ordinary decency. I dare say you have by now got a copy of Radclyffe's pamphlet "The War and Finance", if not, do so; Smith's book-stalls keep it. I gather too that there is a great deal of distress in London, and of course it is carefully kept out of the papers. There is no doubt that we must have conscription. The doctor called yesterday and said that I might now make experiments on walking, but I must be pretty careful for the next two months. There is some hope too, of mother getting on again, and if she can get a long tour in South America, it will be splendid (Note. Mother refers to Leila Waddel). However, in case none of this comes off, I think it is best to dig ourselves in for the winter, and the first step appears to me is to transfer the lease of the studio to the trustees; I presume you would have no objection. I should like to know at once, so that I may sound the landlord. I have no plans at present, nor can have, until I know how these various affairs may work out. If my calculations are right, the C.T.O. as it stands at present, is just about solvent. The Boleskine rent nearly covers the payment of interest, the rates of Boleskine, and the rent and rates of the studio. The small balance is much more than made good by subscriptions. Of course at any moment one might find a really strong soundman to turn solvency into wealth beyond dreams of avarice.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order.

23 October 1914.

24

To the Very Illustrious Sir Knight George Macnie Bowie Vill Degree. Very Illustrious Sir Knight, Most Wise and Excellent Councillor of His Most Sacred Majesty and Most Dear Brother.

Thanks for the drawing which is admirable; but I want a little radiation from the cup. I do not mind it cutting the horizontal line immediately above the cup. I am fearfully rushed so excuse a brief letter.

With regard to the address Care Frater is the A.A.A. style, and should be employed when writing of A.A.A. matters. I enclose you a list of these drawings with some notes. It had better be copied and sent to Hammond, as I have had not time to get that done. I hope you will write to mother (Leila Waddel. T) and keep her happy. Luckily she is booked for next week, and of course that may lead to better things. I hope you got the £6 cheque I sent you.

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Yours in the Bonds of the Order.

23 October 1914.

24

C

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the £6 cheque I sent you.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order.

17 Sept 14.
Care Frater.

16 25

145

Not having a reply to my letter on the 14th inst I think it may have miscarried, so enclose you a copy. I also forward a cheque from Companion Steff Langston. I am sending him a receipt direct. There is no later news except that like the woman with the issue of blood, I am so far no better, but rather worse.

Yours fraternally.

444

P.S. Your letter has just arrived so I needn't enclose the copy. I did not mean that you were to be the only person to take charge of the said manuscript, but merely one of the people. I think it will be much better if you came up before Oct in fact at the earliest date possible. I remember you were a day late for the last funeral you wanted to attend.

I have no pain and practically no discomfort, and feel very fit and well; so that I am getting a good deal of work done. With regard to the War, from the Masonic point of view, we have, of course, nothing to do with it. Every man fights for his own country if he wants to. Our business is to see that the knowledge is preserved, and if all the people that possess it get killed or die in some way, it will be a nuisance.

21 Sept 14.
Care Frater.

26

Thanks very much for your letter of Sunday. Your answer to Murray Leslie was all right, but I expect the friend was either his sister-in-law, or Mrs Sopwith or some some name, or himself. I think it is

just a scheme to get better terms. I think it would be a good plan to say definitely that we will let the house for 2 years certain at £150 a year, payable quarterly in advance; but I should make the stipulation that the ~~new~~ house was to be offered to us at £10 monthly, during such months as the tenant was not in actual occupation, we to pay the servants wages and other current expenses, during the period of such occupation. I should consider such stipulation cardinal. If external repairs to the house are needed, the burden of the expense would have to form the subject of negotiation, and we could not begin to negotiate until we knew what the repairs were, and how much approximately they would cost. Perhaps Dr Murray Leslie would not mind asking for an estimate, so that we could consider the matter without delay.

With regard to funds, I think it is quite clear that something drastic must be done to prevent the slaughter of securities. If I were you I should write to Rider, and ask him if he knows anybody who would care to buy one, adding that for an immediate sale you might let it go at £5 or even £10 below the regular price. I should think the tramway ought to be readily marketable in Scotland. I imagine that the final crash of the Universe will leave Paisley untouched. I have been in great doubt as to how to apply any funds that may be available to our IX degree book. I am afraid that the production of the illustrations will be a very heavy item. There are a great many of them, and cheap reproduction would be fatal. I am thinking of the grand old steel plates of ancient time; even the best modern work looks to me so horribly facile.

We shall expect you either on the 29th or the 3rd 6th, you will be equally welcome on either date. I am, of course, just the same.

Yours fraternally.

18

10 Oct 14.
Care Frater.

Thanks for your letter of Wednesday. I had posted mine about half an hour before it arrived, and I have not answered it till to-day, because I have been in communication with Murray Leslie on the telephone. I think the offer is a very good one, and if you approve, I suggest that you telegraph him on receipt of this "accept five year proposal, letter follows". The confirmation letter should be as enclosed.

I was glad to read your remarks on the VII Degree information. A great deal further is given in the VIII Degree, but what you should do is to think deeply on this subject, and try and discover what practical consequences from what you already know. If you like to make a beautiful copy or copies of this little book, it will be very excellent, and probably in doing it you will get further knowledge from it. There is no way of learning more efficacious as copying. I think it even better than committing to memory.

I was no worse for my exertions on Monday night, and yesterday and to-day I have dressed and walked about a little: but the thigh is still pretty rocky, and I may have to go back again for a little. But if I am able to secure a little of the universal medicine, I shall recover immediately. Hitherto it has been unobtainable for want of IX Degree persons to prepare it.

I will hunt the things you appear to have lost in the course of a day or two.

Yours fraternally

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19

23 Oct 14.

Very Illustrious Sir Knight, Most Wise and Excellent Councillor of His Most Sacred Majesty and Most Dear Brother.

The £6 was intended to be my contribution for the engraver until the end of October. (Note. This cheque for £6 was dishonoured at the Bank. T) I cannot send any more, as it is I shall land in New York with very little money. I am so glad you are able to settle the mortgage interest.

Enclosed are 2 more proofs. I think they are very good. I have executed a power of attorney to Dennes for my signature to the new Boleskine lease.

Yours in frantic haste but most fraternally.

I-1-5.

Letters from G.M.Cowie to A.C.

(Frater Fiat Pax and Treasurer General of the O.T.O.)

to Aleister Crowley

1913 to 1917.

Copied from originals in the possession of K.G.Germer.

(Note. Chronological order is often guess work as few letters are properly dated).

The originals were stolen from former's widow.

1917 Cowie worked for ^{as art-editor} Nelsons, an Edinburgh firm of publishers. It was 55 in Feb ~~1915~~ 1916

He was the G(rand) T(heatrical) G(eneral) of the O.T.O.

(Note. All Cowie's letters are from 14 Glenislaw Gardens, Edinburgh.)
Undated. 1913 ?.

Cowie to Kennedy.

Dear Sir. Mr Kennedy.

A.C.'s matter in ~~Concerning the A.A. (Apparition of Aster or~~
~~or the Silver Star)~~

As Frater Perdurabo (A.Q.T) approves and believes that study of the ceremonies will help me, I am returning the paper duly signed. I shall be glad to hear from you, but I quite understand that it will take some time to copy the M.S. (Note. Presumably a ritual of the O.T.O.) If you will please let me know the sum to send, I will be able to remit it immediately after the month is over.

A.C.'s (as in Oliver) Head of the Order. O.T.O)

I am interested in the design of the Baphomet hieroglyph-I presume it is the familiar Four symbolised in a manner new to me?

With compliments and awaiting fuller information, especially as to whether there is any preparatory work I could be doing meanwhile.

I am yours sincerely

George M. Cowie.

Cowie was stone deaf.

To ? Undated. 1913?

Dear Sir.

2

approval

He was living in Edinburgh

I received on Saturday your circular letter for which I thank you. I regret I cannot make out the signature at end of the letter. I should be disposed, subject to the ~~as~~ approval of my neophyte, to inquire further into the matter, but as Frater Perdurabo could tell you, there is a lion in my path in the shape of total want of hearing, making it difficult or impossible for me to join with others. Distance from London is also an obstacle, and as yet I am not a very advanced student. I should really like to have fuller particulars, however, and you may quite rely on my discretion and real interest.

Yours very sincerely.

Geo M. Cowie.

3

To ? Undated. 1913?

Dear Sir.

I am glad there is a way out of the difficulty. I am writing to ask Frater P(erduraboo)'s assent, and I think it would go hard with me if I did not at least learn something. I think ~~now~~ in order to avoid dispersion of mind at the present time, I shall wait till November before taking up the additional study.

Whilst I have long been a student (of sorts) of Mysticism. Magic is practically a new subject to me, and it is only by degrees I am beginning to comprehend what I am aiming at, so far I have got no actual outward results, and seem to have everything still to learn. A difficulty besides is that my time is limited as I am engaged in ordinary business, and the time has not yet come that I can leave it to devote myself wholly to the Great Work. I am always eager to add to my knowledge of the way to open myself to direct knowledge, and am glad you wrote me.

Yours sincerely.

4

(Remaining letters are all to A.C. unless otherwise stated.)

Undated. 1913 ?.

Care Frater.

Don't wish

Don't wish to bore you- (let bores be inch by inch thrust shrieking into well?) Seems right tho', to report progress, or in this instance perhaps the lack of it. The spirit drove me forth of late, into the wilderness of the Carlton Hotel, ritual practice being thereby utterly stopped and meditation grievously reduced. ^{I think Casanova's book}

The fact was that I vacated my house, in order to have the painters in, and my practice room thoroughly cleansed, painted, and beautified- I had, of course, intended this all along, but its importance, and the reason for it, was driven into me as never before, thro' the coming into possession almost by a seeming accident, of a copy of Dr Dee's 'Actions' which I have been reading with enormous interest-being my first acquaintance with it, direct.

I could have made very little of the book without the help of what has already been given in the Equinox, and no doubt we will get the rest in due time- Its evidently the unpublished M.S.s that are the important thing. It would have been a complete enigma to me, how with all this enormous knowledge at his hand, Dee should have seemingly have made no use of it and died miserably, had not the brief explanation in your Vision of the Aethyrs thrown some light on it. Anyway I've got a very fine addition to my rituals from p 196 (Enoch's Prayer). ^{+ Vision & 126 Voices in the Equinox}

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You will be amused to hear that after something like 10 years heroic abstention, I've at last tasted fish flesh and fowl. I've felt free to do this, of course, for long, but sheer nausea kept me back- However its always such a mistake- nuisance being a vegetarian when in a hotel or travelling. I decided to save myself trouble this once and just be a cannibal again. Felt uncommonly like a cemetery after the first experiment, and, after all, my natural taste is for the other thing and you can't persuade me that beef-stake makes a 'banquet'. It was Anna Kingsford's 'perfect Way' that made me decisively a vegetarian by the way.

As regards meditation practice I have little doubt that there is steady progress, only the process of improvement seems infinite, and I have not yet turned the corner yet. Our sumptuous and belligerent castle over there, remains of course defiant, as in sheer disgust I've dropped p(rana)y(ama) altogether, and I think its better really to do so for the time being, and concentrate entirely on med(itation) practice and rituals → P(rana)y(ama) doesn't fit in somehow with my amended hours and I want all my time for other matters. I wouldn't even try your excellent virgin's new mystical process "Prany Uama"- (I hope you raised her salary for inventing it)

I may as a last hope take a fortnight ~~really~~ away from work very shortly but I have given up my idea of leaving home in this cold wet season. I have got rid of the 'chill' difficulty by fitting a stove in my room, which gives me a comfortable and equable warmth at any hour of the day or night, with no rekindling and very little attention, an advantage not to be run away from.

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3

Yours fraternally. Q.S. Quero Serenitatem (7 week rurority)
Wegg still dead, but busy I hear on his Hideous Tragedy, Codmadello or the
Angel of Venus (in 175 Acts!) Send him some brandy and stop him. I enjoyed
Mortadello.

Undated, 1913.?

Care Frater.

5

I like Serenero, it has its associations and sounds like an affectionate echo of Perdurabo. I'd have jumped af Fiat Pax but there is a lot of ego in me yet, and I decline to be known to you and the inhabitants of the twenty four million worlds as Fire Plug. (Note A drawing follows)
Behold this devastating vision. Aha! Aha! Shut out the sight.

I'd feel like the late W Chambers who stuck his monogram all over his new mansion and was made unhappy by some one innocently inquiring the reason for such an abundance of water- closets!

Thanks for what you say, because, really, it drives a dog-faced demon from my bath who has been the cause of many 'breaks'. However I have usually realised that the Equinox is being written for future generations who will be able to work under much better conditions than we, and that the instructions are not always meant as counsel of perfection for a handful of idiots today.

'Fiat Lux' would be splendid as a combination of the four and three, probably pre-empted though, and perhaps bumptious. Fiat Serenitatem? How'd that do? If you think the simple Serenero best, don't bother to answer, and I'll understand.

Yours fraternally. Q.S.

There are people wh'd say that a fire-plug would be an extremely convenient thing to take with me into the next world, you know.

6

Undated, Sunday. 1913?

Care Frater.

I always, or at least occasionally, do as you tell me. In obedience to instructions I consulted Madame Almahi Beatimartin. She lucidly informs me that you will be in London in January, or, if not, somewhere else, so we will consider that little arrangement settled?

I think it was four verses in the Visions of the Aethyrs gave me the idea that you had all the angelic language. It's no doubt that these particular words were specially given communicated, but given these, you might for all I knew have got the whole of it. Not having your sublime genius, and but scanty time, I cant reconstruct it from the few bones in the Actions, so, many thanks for the offer of your glossary and Grammar!

Shant take up any more of your time just now, However you'll be amused at my latest little fiasco, but its in the note book. I carefully cut my wand at dawn of the Equinox, and just as the sun rose found I'd taken a long and troublesome early morning journey for nothing, having mistaken the date, and anticipated the Equinox by two days- careless devil (sic Casaubon). Never mind, we've got a hazel blasting rod anyway.

Yours fraternally. Q.S.

Undated. 1913 ?.

Care Frater

Y
es. My initiation is due Nov 1. I have made no

Undated. 1913 ?.
Care Frater.

Yes! my initiation is due Moy 1. I have made no beginning to prepare you remember you told me there would be a difficulty in my case and that you thought I might possibly manage to initiate myself. (Note. Cowie was stone deaf, hence the difficulty of a ceremony.)

I am inclined to think that that is only a question of time, but one can't wait indefinitely, tho' I was content to go on some time longer. I thought very likely you might confer it when I come to London? I remember that when I read the oath of obligation it gave me the impression that initiation would take place astrally, somehow, and in my own house. I badly need information as to how, where and when the ceremony will take place and how best to prepare. *William*

~~Within~~ the last three or four days something has occurred I had not foreseen. I have (for the sake ~~of~~ of the work) been living stark alone almost for the last two months. I have no nerves, and with the help of a relative to see to my linen and give the house an occasional cleaning, I manage without difficulty. It must look very odd however-and occasionally I feel altogether too desolate. Lately I have happened occasionally to have ~~company~~ the company at lunch time of a very charming and cultivated lady. Nothing was further from my thoughts than love-making, especially at this moment. But almost by accident I had my eyes opened to that manner of woman she was. a prize for any man.

I'd as soon ~~ay lie down~~ in front of a railway train as marry a woman merely because I need a housekeeper, nor would I jeopardise the Work by mere ordinary philandering

(remainder of letter missing.)

Undated. 1913 ?
Care Frater

Tis all well. Behold me clothed and in my right mind. an acute attack of senile dementia averted. Weep no more, Brother! What happened was that for six days, no more, that steady going old planet and Seaker after Serenity (oh bitter irony) Weggushaving approached too near the orbit of Venus, was deflected in his course. It was really that I seemed to see for a little an easy and pleasant escape from housekeeping horrors combines with a possible companionship on the Path. Silly ass, no doubt, I cheerfully admit that. It would have been running a terrible risk, and the loss of honour.

By Friday I had come to the conclusion that the idea was immoral in any case, on account of the difference in years, and when I had read your letter it did not take me two seconds to see where the right course lay and I have come out of it with merely relief at having escaped a danger. I owe you more than thanks for the letter, but I'm wounded in my tenderest feelings that you believe I said that a B.A. degree would be a help on the Path. Good Lord!

By taking time and rewriting it, I am making this letter very short, not to waste more of your time. There are many things would make you think better of me, in this, but let 'em go. The young lady is quite aware that I am sworn to the Work, and would be surprised if she knew I had wavered, so there's no danger. Shouldn't wonder if you'll know her yet as a Probationer of yours, so don't pillory her, please. Pile it all on me. I don't mind in the least your calling me idiot and other pet names, you know. Its all right.

I seemed to have missed the connection for Bovril though, or you have

shunted me successfully. Meditation etc going all right today-(I stopped not all the time)

That's splendid about your M.S. As you will of course register it, let me know please, what day you will send it, wont you?

Its been very unfortunate for me the loss of my poor step-sister, who in literal fact mothered me, and made all things easy for me. We never had a disagreement or any trouble, in six years.

My mind will now be serene again as I approach initiation. I've an extra motive now for paying a little of my great debt to you by copying out the Book of the Voice of God.

We are friends again Brother?

Fraternally . Q. S. (7 week serenity)

4

Undated. 1913 ? (Note. This letter refers to the letter on page 2 above)
Care Frater.

I have been considering. How would it be if I came up to London at the end of December or early in January (after Xmas). The shortness of daylight at the Museum (unless they have electric light now?) would be a drawback, but it happens that I am usually secure of a weeks holiday then, and by giving up my fortnight now, I can with a good grace have it extended to three weeks or so. I am wise enough to know that your estimate of the time required is likely to be below the mark.

Will you send me at your convenience pulls of your plate of squares. By copying a bit of the specimen plate in 'Actions' I can make out some rough estimate of the total time required, allowing for careful work, and careful independent checking- (a sine qua non in this case, you'd have to find some one to do this, also)

If I come, I shall as you suggest be able to bring down several birds with one stone shot, but I'm not coming unless there is a reasonable chance of seeing you, also- So if you're going off to the Baltoro glacier, or Chokmah you'll warn me, won't you? February might do, in that case.

By putting it off till Dec, I shall be able to become a bit more familiar with the Enochian alphabet, which may possibly be useful in some of the Logaeth squares. How did you find out all the Angelic language? The calls give but a part (and a small part) of it.

The completion of the first (?) Call is lacking in the Actions- (It begins backwards) and I suppose you found it in the unpublished portion of this book. I knew you'd have a copy of the book. I meant it would be at the general service, if any brother had difficulty in getting a copy, and wanted to borrow one. Does the library mentioned in one of the early Eqinoxes exist still?

Here is my table set for Balay and Baphomet. I perform the preparatory rite of writing a cheque (enclosed) (post dated note).

I trust Mr Kennedy will send me all the written information and Rituals possible, so that I can when the opportunity comes, fill in the necessary gaps quickly and intelligently. By some simple system of 'blinds' he can easily make seeming nonsense of them for the casual reader in case of accidents to myself.

Ordinary letters (if large even) give me no trouble, but large packages and registered letters give me some bother, so I'd like to be warned of these in advance, or just send them as follows, 'c/o Miss Forgie, 62 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh'. They might be sent to my business address, but unless very carefully marked Personal are liable to be opened. Thin paper pulls of your squares will do, and can come here as an ordinary letter.

With all good wishes, yours fraternally. Q.S.
(I think I'm getting on satisfactorily if slowly as it is, without the whole hog-Increasing appearance of illumination in the brain, but decidedly no 'vision' yet.)

No date 1913 ? .
Care Frater.

As your approval is quite sufficient and as you say that there is no fear of ~~the~~ dispersion of mind, I have signed and now return the paper.

I am not sure if it isn't just a pleasantry on your part, but really I'd not mind doing that little job for you, were it possible. But firstly it seems the thing to set a flag flying on some part or other of my obstinate and belligerent Castle-even if this be the selfish course. Secondly, in the last day or so the hope of my projected fortnight's whole hog has vanished for at least another week, and instead I may just have to continue as at present. My return to normal 'hours' is becoming imminent and we are not ~~so~~ saved. I do seem to be advancing, but my year will soon be over (Note.

Presumably his year as a Probationer. T) and no tangible result yet, though the inward or latent results must I feel be considerable. I get the feeling I have set up processes which are going on all the time whether I'm consciously working or not-a little taste of real success would be a help and get over the obsessing feeling that I am a duffer and would remove one distraction in concentration. *(as in my copy 674)*

My copy of the 'Actions' has three plates and signs that an engraved title page I believe should be there is missing-It seems otherwise a perfect copy and in remarkable preservation. No desperate magician appears to have handled it. I mention my possession of it that you may know where an extra copy lies at the general service if required.

By the way what a glorious subject for a Temple fresco (or the refector one day, of Thelema) would be the vision of the four sumptuous and belligerent Castles with trumpeters Kings Princes Seniors etc: treated in the style of mediaeval M.S.S. It would want a first class man though, (which he isn't me)

It would be a pleasure to handle the original M.S. of Dee, if I could manage that fortnight. By the way ~~the~~ the Book of Enoch Dee so often mentions one of his own M.S.? I can hardly suppose it to be the sort of Gospel of that name. I need not bother you with my notes yet, as we are just plodding on in the same old way, perhaps with increasing sign of results- I am content now to summarise every few days work, it is so much the same.

Will you please read the note to Mr Kennedy and hand it to him with the form? Wegg is remaining dead, i.e the horrors have not come back, only I seem "dry".

Yours fraternally. Q.S.

(Note. No more letters are signed Q(uero) S(ernitatem). Presumably Cowie was passed as a Neophyte, taking as his new motto *Fiat Pax*- Pax)

Aug 29 . ?1913.
Care Frater.

11

Excellent

You will no doubt be in London by now. My little ten days retirement duly came off and was successful as regards freedom from interruption and the utilisation ~~to~~ the full of the time. The net result of the ritual was that I did not get even the minor ecstasy that would have contented me, but that it did seem to have an important and far reaching effect, I did get the feeling that a link of some kind had been formulated with the ~~unseen~~. I have been working since as I have not worked since that unlucky time when I broke the world's record for pranayama and got disgusted.

The balance of my holiday got very much broken up, but I thought this not bad as it protracted the period more. I got up to doing seven hours or more almost consecutive work a day, when free, and had long week-ends of it.

I am just beginning another today, have done 7 hrs consecutive med. with some breaks of asana, but mind not under such good control, the result of having been a few days away ~~alone~~-this-time not alone this time but in a place where I have friends-and of a whole series of incidents that keep coming into the mind. e.g. a friend I was fond of was killed by an accident (that ended in lock jaw) last week and so on- Also I had really a very pleasant few days (and got some work sandwiched in, mantra and mental invocation mostly) and the mind reverts to it today.

I want to write you again, after this week end (it finishes my holiday) and get your advice as to the way I am using the mental invocation. The effect of the ritual was very marked as regards concentration, for one thing, it seemed that it was only my limited powers of endurance that prevented a result- I went through it mentally each day, physically 3 times in the 10 days. Have not repeated it since as I got my body in a bad state, with repeating the cuts, and using holy oil too liberally. I actually burned myself all over with it, I have a sensitive skin- There is another matter I want your advice about, but this letter will do in the meantime. Also I am not sure about one point in the ritual which did not occur till I was working it. I formulate the pylons of the visions as being at the respective places of Hoor- pep, Asi and Tahuti-the last being where I see the illusory self- There is no formula for Tahuti in my copy of your ritual, I can hardly think that I omitted copying it, but mention it in case I have made an error as I remember there were 4 'visions' in the actual ceremony I went through in January.

Perhaps I had better send you my illumination to look over? Its not so good as I could have made it, (i) I was so stupid as to think I'd only need to use it once, (ii) it was dog-faced demon enough as it was, as it could only be done by cutting short my time for other practices for many weeks.

I hope you are very well, have a good time (he was in Russia. T) and that things are going as well as they can be expected to in a contrary world like this.

Fraternally yours. F(lat) P(ax).

12

Undated . ? Sept. 1913 ?
Care Frater.

Very glad to hear ~~from~~ from you- You have let me down rather gently as of course I feel stupid to have got no tangible result from all this work and effort. *dear waddel*

So, Mother is coming at last. Will you be sure to impress on her to let

me know how when and where I can see her? As luck would will have it my housekeeper is absent on holiday and does not come back till this day week (tues) or the Monday previous, at earliest. If Mother (& Miss Leila Bathurst T) would come to me for the few days after that, I should be very glad, if she feels she would prefer it to being in diggings or a hotel.

There will be plenty of time after No X (of the Equinox. T) is out to go into the matter about which I thought of asking advice. There seems little immediate chance of my gaining any result from practical magic. Meditation (which is not going badly) seems my only hope. THEREFORE I am wondering as to the advisability of attempting the operation next year (on the lines laid down in the Vision of the 8th Ae(thyr))

It seems that this is well within my scope and that by making the final period coincide with a holiday, I might do the preliminary weeks whilst still going about my business in the world. It always seemed to me that as if this operation must wait till I had the chance to retire from the world for at least a considerable period, but that does not seem at all near at hand, and why put off the thing if it can be done now?

The three hours a day are little more than I am already doing and I think I could manage to keep it up unbrokenly (this is not the case now). The real difficulty would be the midnight meditation, as I have found it decidedly does not pay to cut down my allowance of sleep. I infer that even a Probationer may attempt this operation. You will tell me if I am right or no in thinking of it at present.

I also want to consult you about the way I am using the 'Bornless One' invocation whilst on my walks, but this can wait - I have not much time, very busy as it happens and must finish this letter now. With all good wishes.

Yours fraternally. F(iat) P(ax).

----- Liber Sennach (800) Coepressus cum Darmone
Appendix IV in Magick in Theory & Practice.

No date. ? Sept, 1913 ?.

13

Care Frater.

Haven't written sooner as I knew that 'busy' isn't the word for you, and these presents is just a note that requireth no answer. I thought I had a splendid chance to tell you not to let you down gently last week end, and to slang you for a wicked perverse Black Magician and a Creator of terminological Inexactitudes for saying that Mother would be here in two weeks, whereas actually she arrived six days thereafter and at, to me, a days notice. However she says it wasn't your fault, so you may breathe again if you have time!

I was much put out at the idea of her having to go into digs when she has a friend here. It wasn't possible to get any one else to be in the house, but I managed to fix things up so that she would be comfortable here for one night at least, till we saw what could be arranged.

I met her on arrival, but we both felt that for appearance sake it was better she just go to rooms at once, as she knew where to go. Short of having her in my own house I have done all in my limited power to show her due love and honour, for both your sakes, and I daresay it has been pleasanter for her at least than if she had no one at all to see here.

I went with a friend to see her ~~perform~~ performance on Friday and was greatly delighted with it - the only artistic thing in (to me) rather a dismal programme. It struck me what a very effective thing she and these girls might make out of a Witches Sabbath dance and an Act that would probably fetch her at least double the money. I feel sure this idea has occurred to you, too, and you can easily imagine details.

The Dapper Dignite Girls. Lilah was the violinist

One good point would be to drap the girls in white in front, all black behind. At the proper point let them face a black cloth, and so, suddenly seem to disappear, the sound of their violins coming from apparent nothingness, Mother alone remaining in front in flaming scarlet brilliantly lit up, a collar of emeralds for a point of contrast. Give the other girls ragged white chemises, a judicious amount of (apparent) cuticle left visible and see if the great B(ritish) P(ublic) dont clap their beastly hands off with applause. I will copy this note when I write to her. Have made the rough suggestion already and she seemed to think it a possible idea.

I wont be coming up to London till after Christmas-I told you I would get my main holiday in August, and tho' it was very much broken up I feel that I have had my allowance, and we have now begun the busiest part of the year. I did not think there was any special reason use in coming up in your absence. Had I been doing the retirement under discipline, there would have been some advantage, but as it was London in August did not appeal to me, and I think I did well in remaining at home, as I lost no inch of time.

The **10** days in July was the best, the rest rather a fiasco as per usual. My record the last three weeks is about the worst yet. A bad cold, I caught the absence of a housekeeper, extra business and other distractions. However things will be normal in a day or two. I hope you are keeping ~~and~~ pretty fit and that with the beginning of the era of Silence (Note in publishing the Equinox.T) you will have more breathing time. Mother gave me all your kind messages, which are heartily reciprocated. Do not dream of answering this till you are much less busy. With every good wish I am,

yours fraternally. F. P. (First Sat. Letter to ~~Second Uncle~~)
Mother said you wanted to see my alledged 'beautiful' ritual, a sleepy thin-
thing it looks to me, but I wont send it on for a little. I want you to
annotate it. Perhaps we will do it all over again, if it wont become too
dog-faced a demon.

14

Undated. 1913 ?. Monday night.
Care Frater.

A letter from me should have crossed yours as I meant to write, but knowing you were away in Paris there seemed no occasion for haste. Well, I'm very sorry for you, you had enough worry without this, but you don't mean to tell me that it's the great and good Victoria (Cremers) who has bolted with the blooming 'oof? I never heard of any other 'business manager', hence I am driven to this unlikely conclusion. And you thought there was no art in America!

I've heard absolutely nothing and have been patiently waiting the appearance of "o 10 (of the Equinox.T) Is it that after all V(ictoria) C(remers) didn't pay off these little accounts? I wish I could say that the loss of the money as far as my share is concerned doesn't matter, and that you and the A.A. are welcome to it, but of course it knocks over one of my castles in the air, and besides puts off indefinitely the day when I can feel that if I choose I can give up ordinary work and be able to say (go to hell!), so to speak, to circumstances. I have never in my experience known a loan of any appreciable amount to be returned even when circumstances were favourable. One loses the money and the friend too, but in this case the latter clause won't happen. I lent the money with my eyes open and face the risk of losing it rather than feel that your work should be wrecked by selfishness on my own part.

I had a certain use to make of the money had it been returned before June next, but as that's not likely, the only thing is to look at

the matter as philosophically as possible and consider the money as lent you for an indefinite period. There needn't be any question of interest, as I said before. Note that while I hold your IOU for £200 only, you have actually received £50 and I am out of pocket really about £275. I hope by the end of next month to have repaid the bank the overdraft in full and that will stop a leakage of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. After that it will take a few months to have a moderate sum in hand for emergencies. The bank must keep the securities till then or I'm in a hole. Fortunately my bread and butter doesn't depend on this, its only expenditure on holidays and such I've had to cut down, naturally, till I've cleared off my over-drawings and rescued the securities. As a matter of course I cannot get back the Rider one till this is done, I'm about £20 short yet.

There is one piece of news I was going to tell you. From one point of view it is quite good. I knew I was sure to be harder worked this winter, but did not expect to have so greatly increased duties. I have been given more complete control of my work, and as it means a more dignified and less subservient position there was no question at all as to whether to accept or reject it, it is the quite natural development of my old position. Altho' not a word has been said about increase in pay, and my pay envelope shows no difference, that may follow one day and make things easier for me in future. Nous verrons. It was worth taking the chance.

But from another point of view it is a dog-faced demon indeed as it demands every atom of my time and concentration and sends me home dog-tired. Also, as it needs a great deal of thought, it is difficult to keep it out of my mind in off hours, and meditation is liable to be more disturbed. However this is at the beginning and when I get settled into the new groove we will do better. Certainly I've had a serious set back for a month.

All the same there is a pronounced improvement in concentration, at times, and if it were not that I can't avoid speculating why I don't get *dhyan* when I've got the mind steady and it goes dayzle (? .T), we might see things. For the rest I haven't got the slightest success in anything. Rituals, invocations etc produce nothing. I'm too ignorant or too cowardly yet to work with a circle, and that may be have something to do with it.

I'm badly worried about housekeeping again. The excellent person who has been with me 9 months is leaving me for a more lady like situation and it's so difficult to get a really suitable person. And this is so quiet a corner that it takes an exceptional person to like it.

Small woes to put beside your big ones. I'm not really discontented at slow progress, it is progress of a kind and a ripping good game besides, only I wonder if I'm not quite an exceptional duffer judged by others.

As for yourself you have sources of consolation beyond my understanding and I am sure you are not really so worried and discomfited as a normal man would be in your position.

I had meant to write sooner, but first hearing Miss W (addel ?) would be in Glasgow, I put it off till I could tell you I had seen your girl, and that she was looking well and happy, and again when she told me you were in Paris, I put off writing for another week, and so on. Well its time to stop writing and let you off more of this screed. Cheer up! Things will come all right yet and I remain just as fraternally yours.

F. P.

-- ---

Undated. 1913 ?.
Care Frater

15

No vain form either. No I didn't mean that-I have your IOU for 200-The understanding was that I should count the odd 50 as a cash contribution to expenses for 1913 and be content with 225, presumably at the end of the year. But as there is no likelihood of that we will consider the 25 as automatically wiped out in 1914, so that you will only owe me 200 net. I only mentioned the full sum in case you had forgotten it, and the fact that I have not yet repaid the sum borrowed from the bank, so that the securities are still held up. The obvious thing is to get this paid off, and stop a leakage of 6½ per cent. The only available thing left is a tramway debenture which is in my sister's name also and would involve a lot of bother and only bring in 85 or so, a considerable loss.

Dont worry at all about repayment. If things come right some day, and you can easily repay £200 net, well and good, we must just wait till then. You see it does not mean any hardship, only the awkwardness of having no loose cash to fall back on in an emergency, which may not however come.

Possibly in a few months I may have more income and that will make things better and enable me to help a little again. Dont assume I am not taking the matter in a sportsmanlike spirit. I merely could not affect total indifference as to the return of the money and again, I know you are in ~~newt~~ no wise to blame. I have no objection to a mortgage on Foleskine as it might be a protection to yourself (I am the last man likely to foreclose) but it would mean a few pounds extra possibly in legal expenses-cui bono?

I will tell you what I had been thinking of-I have an annuity of £20. If Riders and the tram debentures bring in another 10-If I had got the £225 back, I might be able to invest 300 by June next in another 20. With a house and about £60 a year, I could manage to live if I chose to give up ordinary work, and in any case to have ease of mind about my latter years and to ~~day~~ "go to hell" to any one whom I ~~at~~ might otherwise have to be submissive to. There has always been a danger of my being placed at the mercy of some understrapper. This happened to me once before (horridly) and partially so again, the last two years, but it was not unpleasant this time. Now my recent lift has placed me beyond that danger. I have no one but the firm above me. There is always the danger however of illness, and injury to my eyes or hands, to take away my income at a stroke and the feeling of having even so little as £20 a year certain I have found greatly ~~to~~ conducive to the calm of mind one needs in the meditative life.

However by the time anything happens matters may have come all right, so we must not bother any more. I know you'd help me in return at a pinch, and that is an asset in itself. There was another matter I had in view, but no need to go into it at present.

I've managed to find another h(ouse) k(eeper) and one likely to do, but will be alone from the middle of this week till Nov, and the kitchen boiler has chosen this joyful occasion to spring a leak and land me in a mess.

I hope to be able to come up for a week about Jan. As the only object we would be to see you, I'm wondering if it would not be a better investment if you came and spent a quiet week here. That is you'd use my railway fare to come here, and let it count as a contribution to A.A.? It might be a chance to do a little creative work in quiet.

I will be anxious to know how things are going with you. But it ~~seems~~ to me quite likely that this is no more than the darkest hour before the dawn

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and that you will be pulled through all right (This sounds quite Irish)
I've tried the chakras and a rather good formula of my own invention, but after many experiments I find nothing beats my old method of concentrating on the bare idea of 'Silence'-it is the most promising always.

I am glad you are not feeling overwhelmed.

Oscar Wilde I used to have a considerable aversion for, but after I had read 'De Profundis' I'd take off my hat to him if I met him on the street.

I'd specially like if you'd tell me in a word, what's your attitude to Home Rule. Personally, it seems to me a mistake and a retrogression, and the Carson attitude a much finer one than the Redmond. Every good wish and I am always, yours fraternally, F.P.

Undated. 1913?
Care Frater.

Cremers 16

The money turned up all right at the end of March after you had left Tunis and I had no address. The balance of the £500 is lodged in the bank ready for you, but should lie off possible till April 30 as that will bring a month's interest. If you come to Edinburgh we can make out post dated cheques to the various debtors and I feel strongly that you should trust to no more Great Victorias in such a matter again, but see it done direct. Victoria (Cremers) it appears was only carrying out the decrees of destiny in abusing and robbing 'the native' unlucky enough to have Mars in his 6th according to 'Raphael'. That same person assures me what I knew already, that I don't come out top dog when I start Shylocking. This is so clear that I'd never dream of lending the money in ordinary course.

Its just that the case of Shylock Wegg has been judged by Fiat (Fiat) P(ax) who considers that a few years of possible ill luck for Wegg are of no consequence when weighed against the possible retarding of a work that promises so much for the good of the race. So you get the money, questionless. So long as I'm in employment, the interest is really of no moment, nevertheless if not forthcoming regularly I will lose the very thing desired-the feeling of having something certain coming in, should there be any trouble ahead of me which \uparrow have a strong feeling that there is, and that my instinct to provide against it was ∞ correct.

By the way, it turned out that the original Consols were bought at 93 and with the recent slight rise yield has been better by a hundred pounds, than I estimated. I want to use this latter to further secure the future and I would also like to have an understanding that there should be no further call on me for loans, as I feel I have done my share now. Better to help out of income. Also there are other things than the A.A. to be helped, and its not so much the fear of the loss of my own bread and butter as of the ability to put butter sometimes on the very dry bread of others that harasses me. I'm not able to do so much of this as I used to, when I'm crippled myself. However we'll hope for luck in the near future and then all will be plain sailing.

Well when your letters came on your leaving Tunis, I thought it hideous that a man of your gifts and power should have to want to do hack work for publishers. Nevertheless, having the opportunity, and as the idea is a practical one, I mentioned the matter the same day to Mr Nelson. The idea is no new one but he said the difficulty is that French writers of prominence always sell their English rights on publication, and in certain cases they (the firm) have the arrangement for \uparrow the refusal of these. The only one we have done yet seems to be 'oincarnes' 'Science and Method'. This would have suited you \uparrow think. If you have any special book to definitely propose

translating the firm would consider it but you should make sure of the 'rights' being available. There is more likelihood of employment at translating English into French e.g. we are doing a French edition of 'Little Lord Faunteroy'.

Sadler is not with us, left 2 years ago, he works for Dents I think, who are running a translation series. It might be worth trying him with this idea only (though I don't know him personally) he has a fixed idea that no one is any good at translation but himself, and I can't just fancy you going to him and insinuating that though you cannot hold a damn candle to him you'd be much obliged for a little translation work. Oh damnit, I don't like the idea of you having to beg for hack work or of your endurance being tried to this extent however philosophically you take it. If it must be I will do all I can to help, but the idea of ~~one~~ novel per month doesn't seem likely.

We may regard the Sir B.S. incident as closed now. Please do not refer to it in any way if you are in Edinburgh. I did as I proposed, and had the matter out with the firm, on general lines, but I don't know that I did myself any good by it. Having done what is possible I go on. Sir B.S. does not come in unless the firm's in the firm's absence I think it will not occur again.

As mentioned in my note I've been rather run down for a week. Bangu or something hath murdered sleep, and it's a thing the absence of which quickly knocks me up all up. Got natural sleep last night and feel a different man today.

Did I tell you of the fate of my recent experiment in housekeepers? She only lasted 8 days. Drink! and came with a fine character from a man with a shop in Princes Street. I expect I've landed myself with another, but a very promising one this trip. It's too difficult getting along by myself, in spite of advantages and it does waste a lot of time. Must run now for the afternoon post. See you on Tuesday evening.

F. P.

I got with great difficulty a copy of the Occult Review and saw your letter. Now I see what Mrs Kircudbrightshire was driving at.

Undated. 1913. ?.
Care Frater.

17

I have been lazy and have put off writing. What cheer now? Any chance of Victoria the Great (Gremers) being laid by the heels and made to disgorge Sanctuary Lamps etc? And any chance of No X (of the Equinox) coming forth? That will be in due time. This trouble must have greatly crippled you but may be but a final trial of your patience lets hope.

You say you will be going away on the 15th and I would very much like to know for how long. I do not want to throw away any money coming to London if I am not to see you and about the 1st of January is the time. You'll let me know, will you?

I've been having a pretty strenuous time and am looking forward to a week or so's holiday with added keenness. How is the Mater? She did not give me her address when I last heard from her, so I couldn't write. All good wishes

Yours fraternally. Geo M Cowie.

Undated. 1913 ?.
Care Frater.

18

It would not be a bad idea to cross to Paris to wish you and The Master of the Hounds! a good New Year. If you could get a room for me near

bye I should have no bother with hotels and a chance to see French life from the inside. And it would be interesting to see the places mentioned in History. I'm familiar enough with Paris to be indifferent to the places mentioned in history (l.c.). The only bother is that it will defer the day of my deliverance from the Bank, by reason of the extra expenses, but it's worth it. If you are sure to be there at the beginning of the year will you let me know as early as possible so that I can look out trains and so on.

Your letter is more cheerful in tone I fancied and it will be very pleasant if the worries vanish by the end of the year. Will you kindly do something tender (with boiling oil in it) to the person responsible for defrauding me of Equinox X? An outsider had his copy days ago and made me feel small.

Must I trot down the Bridges and then a Mortgage Wegg? My much enduring Frater, you dont know

Shylock Wegg!

No date. 1913?

19

A/c; translation published in Paris later

Care Frater

Encore la grippe! About the Baudelaire idea, I'm very doubtful if the firm would consider that. Too small a sale would be probable, and it would be better published at ordinary not at our popular prices. Flaubert's novel again-All right if that nuisance 'the young person' need not be considered. Nelson's you see, tho' less severe nowadays, have always been noted for the rigidly correct in literature, and that vetoes many things.

I had no opportunity to say much, but of the firm seriously considered trying you and putting your name to translations, we must keep on the right side by letting them know just the kind of work you have hitherto done, as it might cause trouble after if they did not know. You will understand that I am thinking of The Sword of Song e.g. certain poems in The "inged Beetle and so on, and you will know exactly what the average Philistine thinks of these and will not blame me for suggesting this as a difficulty. I know too well what would happen to be thought of the above, if I show them.

Quite apart from this I do think that you would have ever so much more chance with Dents or one of the London houses. If you put the idea all offer into definite shape I will pass it on to the firm and we will see first if they are inclined to come to terms at all.

About the 'transaction', you advise me to consider it 'business', but my pessimistic mind asks "?". I enclose £20, its all right leaving 425 to get. You must be having a worse time than I imagined. Are "They" playing fair? I hope for all our own sakes the Jupiter element will come in soon.

Encore- "cheer up" Yo Yours fraternally. F.P. [the Masters & Gods]
Dont quite understand how it was my letters had 'no ending' unless I omitted to sign them? I am quite well again. This is a holiday. Lovely weather, but I'm having a dull day and not making the good use of it I used to. Bothered.

Undated. 1913?

2.0

Care Frater.

I had your letter from Geneva this morning and as you are to be in Paris this week I think it is safe to send the letter I had written to Rue Vavin, as you'll call there I suppose. Monday next is a holiday in Edinburgh and if you arrived in the morning we'd have the day quite free together. Lawyer's offices closed of course. Dont bring a single bottle of

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Undated. 1913 ?
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As I felt sure you would call at rue Vavin if in Paris, I sent on a full letter there. This is in case you have missed it and are in London. One thing I mentioned was that Monday is the Edinburgh holiday and if you were well enough to arrive in the morning of that day, I could have it with you, untrammelled, tho' of course the lawyer's offices will be closed. But n'importe. I will find time anyway. You will of course stay with me, a bed is ready for you tho' my housekeeper is off for the week-end (all the better). I hope you are as fit as a fiddle again. Yours fraternally. F.P.

22

16 March 14.
Care Frater

It evidently takes a long time for a letter to reach Tunis and as the 31st is quite in sight here goes. My last one was not overlong but let us hope the gorgeous spectacle of yourself in red and blue helped to cheer you up. We've had our share of filthy weather here too, this is the first real spring day and if Maréchal Soleil does not turn traitor I'm going to have a walk tomorrow afternoon, I am, first time of an afternoon off this year. Things are going smoothly pro tem. Lately I've used what leisure I have in the evenings (I have to read a lot of novels, in between, for illustration instructions) to go in bald-headed (no allusion to Perdúrabo) for Astrology. I have now got far enough on to cast a figure and by dint of reference books make out its surface meaning. The thing gets very absorbing and as it has considerably extended my field of knowledge we may consider it a step, perhaps, in the Great Work, or towards it. I've been wicked enough to drop Ritual altogether for weeks and months. Partly lessened time, partly 'dryness' is the cause.

Meditation goes on, as ever, and I have obviously made advances, but still one can't make much out of it normally only one hour out of the 24 and the mind always ready to turn to the events of the daily round. On Sundays the mind seems to indulge ~~itself~~ in automatic breaks down precisely at the end of each hour out of pure habit or sheer devilry.

I haven't worked out my own horoscope yet, I need to cast several figures for different hours to see which comes nearest my nature and the events of life. I realise how typically Gemini a person I am-always wanting to do two things at once or go on to one before I have finished the other, and I think that must be in my ascendant too. I notice I have the Sun, Venus and Mercury in conjunction in Gemini. It's possibly the Gemini nature that is a bar to perfect concentration - e.g. I will get the mind smooth and grey and simultaneously catch myself thinking how cleverly I'm doing it and so on.

? Abramelin

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By the way you've never told me what Inscrutable Mystery is implied by that shaven poll unless its a Symbol that you've thrown your Wig on the Green. Dash my wig, Why?

Revenons a nous horoscopes: I expect this should help me towards the understanding more quickly of your new system of Geomancy and if you send me the copy I will be very glad to duplicate it for Windram and myself and return to you the original when you come back to London. By the way, if you were staying in Tunis till end of April, its not impossible that I could-might-come across there. It would be a chance to get a glimpse of the East. Impracticable no doubt, I dont yet know what I will do in the summer. Next year-bring a kilt and go to Boleskine and affect the Highland Landed Proprietor? MacPhiat o' Pawkshoose. not

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I wonder if you noticed this little story in the papers the other day. Lady took her little girl to a meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Little girl sat patiently thro' the proceedings for an hour or so, then in a very bored voice said 'Mamma, when is the cruelty going to begin?'

I'm sorry you're not getting better luck with health. But rest and a warm climate is something worth while and haven't you invented a new Science? Here's half a sheet left to fill up and I am now feeling singularly uninspired so it will be less cruelty to leave off and let the rest be silence. Yea what says Liber OO? - ----Fiat Pax!

29 June 14

C.F.

No I did not send receipt^s to Mrs Davis, as I understood all this was attended to at the office. I will send receipts in cases where cheques come to me direct only. Will write later in week. No word from Mrs M Leslie yet.

F.P.

Undated, '914?

Care Frater.

I was very glad to get your letter this a.m. I think you will feel very well satisfied and that it is better than selling Boleskine. I was greatly puzzled at your not giving me M(urray) L(eslie's) address in London, and being at a loss wired to the Boleskine! It happend that as usual the post was very late so that I opened your letter on the street and overlooked the enclosure (his letter) and did not catch it up till I examined the envelope just now 5 p.m.. I will write him in London, now, to say the telegram was accidentally misdirected. He'll get the letter, however, all right, same time as you rec^d this. Glad you are able to be up in May. Many happy returns of the 22 Oct. F.P.

[Windram, still in U.K.)

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Revenons a nous horoscopes: I expect this should help me towards the understanding more quickly of your new system of Geomancy and if you send me the copy I will be very glad to duplicate it for Windram and myself and return to you the original when you come back to London. By the way, if you were staying in Tunis till end of April, it's not impossible that I could-might-come across there. It would be a chance to get a glimpse of the East. Impracticable no doubt, I don't yet know what I will do in the summer. Next year-bring a kilt and go to Boleskine and affect the Highland Landed Proprietor? MacPhiat o' Pawkshoose. mol

I'm giving my cousin till the end of March to projuice the shekels-If/no word of 'em soon, I must write as I've no clear notion yet of how the thing is going to pan out. Glad the E(nglish) R(eview) induced idleness. That is what happens sometimes with this minor individual too. I think that it is doing a good work-paving the way for the New Law isn't it? How is Windram getting along? This letter is mainly drivel about myself, never mind, I fancy any sort of letter is welcome in exile, and it's meant to cheer you up, not to improve your valuable mind.

I wonder if you noticed this little story in the papers the other day. Lady took her little girl to a meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Little girl sat patiently thro' the proceedings for an hour or so, then in a very bored voice said 'Mamma, when is the cruelty going to begin?'

I'm sorry you're not getting better luck with health. But rest and a warm climate is something worth while and haven't you invented a new Science?

Here's half a sheet left to fill up and I am now feeling singularly uninspired so it will be less cruelty to leave off and let the rest be silence. Yea what says Liber OO? - ----Flat Pax!

23

29 June 14

6.F.

No I did not send receipt* to Mrs Davis, as I understood all this was attended to at the office. I will send receipts in cases where cheques come to me direct only. Will write later in week. No word from Mrs M Leslie yet.

F.P.

24

Undated, '914?
Care Frater.

I was very glad to get your letter this a.m. I think you will feel very well satisfied and that it is better than selling Boleskine. I was greatly puzzled at your not giving me M(urray) L(eslie's) address in London, and being at a loss wired to the Boleskine! It happened that as usual the post was very late so that I opened your letter on the street and overlooked the enclosure (his letter) and did not catch it up till I examined the envelope just now 5 p.m.. I will write him in London, now, to say the telegram was accidentally misdirected. He'll get the letter, however, all right, same time as you rec'd this. Glad you are able to be up in May. Many happy returns of the

22 Oct. F.P.

Undated. 1914 ?

C.F.

17
25
Slavery resumed as usual today. It was a good plan returning in the day-time yesterday as I had plenty to read and ~~time~~ to think of during the long and not at all tiresome journey.

On leaving London I opened the packet and devoured the devastating secrets of the VII Degree (Q.T.O.) Strange! it almost seemed as if I'd known this before. From a hundred hints here and there I knew that divinity was in some mysterious way connected with the creative organs in man, and from the Book of Lies one can infer that the vital fluid is a vehicle of immortality and so on.

Now you have given me specific and direct knowledge and of the kind I want, but as always happens it only raises a larger field of ??????? than ever. One can't be content with this much, one wants to know, you know. In due time no doubt, after this has soaked in and absorbed, and practice strengthened by the modes outlined.

It is good to have in a clear and formulated shape what I could only vaguely guess at and wonder about before, and the journey to London was not in vain. The VII Degree knowledge seems to link directly with the ceremony I went through, in such a way that I'm not sure for the moment if it was not actually the VII Degree.

By the way I had somehow got the idea that you'd put me through in some way without rising from your bed, and I was rather horrified to find you up and dressed - I hope that it wasn't an imprudence and that you are no worse for it.

Do you want me to copy the VII Degree M.S. in more permanent form for safe keeping? Typewriting isn't very permanent, but the matter (presumably typewritten too) ~~must~~ take its chance.

I'm scribbling this before I leave the office - I had no letters this morning, I may have left before the post came. A personal letter from Edinburgh should have reached me at 33 on Monday and I'm wondering if it came on Tuesday morning? I've evidently left bits of myself behind, as usual, gloves (possibly at 33) etc but there's no hurry. I will be anxious to hear how you are keeping. Must stop. Yours fraternally. F.P.

I'll return the borrowed M.S. tomorrow - and by the way I have Walte's Rosicrucians of yours

---- 26

Undated. 1914 . (Should be just previous to the last letter. T)
Care Frater.

I shall leave by the 10 a.m. on Tuesday and should be due at 33 (Avenue Studios, Fulham Road) by 7 o'clock or so, coming from Kings Cross by Underground. I assume someone will be at the Studio to guide me to you if you are not there. I shall have had dinner on the train.

Are you not making a mistake about the Moratorium. I understood it ~~which~~ expired on Nov 8 not Oct 4. I may be wrong. I heard nothing from Poleskine until Friday morning and I then posted a letter stating the terms we were willing to accept as per your letter to me. I shall probably receive a reply in London and take your directions there.

Juppiter I hope will be more propitious. He hasn't been as regards the securities. The stockbroker sent back Riders thing as unsaleable, it not having a stock exchange quotation just as the Bank said before. It may be as well to let it alone till the end of the half year till the interest comes along.

Undated. 1914 ?

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along. In getting rid of these you see I am getting rid of a bit of my income. The point is that if universal ruin is coming, as you infer, they might as well be used up, now, for the common good. You must just tell me what is right to do. (This refers to A.C. prophesying a crash as a result of the outbreak of the 1914-18 war. T) You must just tell me what is right to do. To me things look precarious as regards every one's income from business in the near future. For the time being I have been lucky in one way. At the same time I have such a long and irregular hours, that after working my mind up to a pitch of great steadiness, I am perceptibly deteriorating again, through irregularity of practice and great pre-occupation of mind. The once quiet room you saw me in is a handemonium now with the constant chatter of a typewriter and an everlasting stream of people. Troops are quartered across the road, officers in the rooms below mine, and the whole of that side of the place is now demanded to quarter 200 men.

(Remainder of letter missing.)

Undated. Monday. 1914?

27

Care Frater.

Its reassuring to see a letter addressed in your own handwriting and as firm as ever. Now, you must tell me whether I should come up or not on the 29th or defer it a week. You can't talk to me as easily as to other people (Note. Cowie was stone deaf. T) and I don't want to come up if it will be bad for you, and there is no object in coming unless I see you. Later might be better, as I expect you'll have to put up with old age and a lingering death, unless the Cataclysm sweeps off the lot of us.

On Friday I was going to enclose a letter from one of my friends and will do so as showing how the Manifesto (M.M.M. Manifesto. T) seems to one type of mind. This person is quite 'fit' but in very bad health. Return it please. As a variation on this, another copy was seen by a Professor at the Univ(ersity) here. His opinion as communicated to me was that the thing was a Fraud on the face of it. As is well known to you University professors are men of super human wisdom and the most acute penetration, so we may as well shut up shop about Oct 13th. Another man sent back my 'mystic book' as totally incomprehensible.

Had yours yesterday evening. No reply has come from Dr Murray Leslie (later tenant of Boleskine. T) yet and I may wait till tomorrow before sending on the gist of your letter so as not to seem as if we were jumping at the offer of a tenant.

The stockbroker will do his best of course, I only set 25 per cent as the limit. I inferred from your letter that securities might become literally scraps of paper ere long and that it might be best to get rid of them even at a big loss.

I'll manage to travel up on the 29th, but I will depend on you to tell me to defer coming if it won't be good for you, a week or two later will do as well. I haven't much time, if you are to get this in the morning. I enclose an unfinished letter begun earlier in the week. Its exhausting living in a constant atmosphere of war news and photos, but I'd practically be idle if it were not for the War paper.

All good wishes, fraternally F.P.

Undated. ? 1914.

Care Frater.

No good. The person I wanted to cheer up with a perusal of the article wont arrive for a day or two yet, and I'm afraid to deprive you of it longer, or to risk loosing such a unique specimen. Print it in the Equinox when the years of Silence are over. But the person will also be cheered up by being told that if it is the Cataclysm that is coming, its the safest thing to have a Brother of the Star for a friend even if hes a poor silly dam Neophyte who cant even do asana.

By the way I think you understand me well enough not to imagine that when I refer to disagreeables that may arise (such as the lunatics article) and possible consequences that is personal fear I have. Same with money. Easy enough to part with what I have, if there was not the rights of others to weigh.

My brain works with tortoise like rapidity and it has dawned on me that you possibly have intended to hint to me that its is really The Cataclysm that is at hand, the necessary clearance for the New eon. Well, I wish the clearance could be done with, but the carving up of little children and the violation of young girls before their mothers eyes, not to mention other things-I am tempted to imagine that the Germans have evoked unconsciously the terrible Yahweh of old and that old Jehovah is up against Ra-Hoor-Khuit. Suppose the hell-predestined Germans are discomfited, then the presence of the Russians, the Hindu troops and the possible Yellow Man in Western Europe may raise another hell. I am not communicating these ideas to others. The thing if it comes will be bad enough, without the horrors of anticipation.

I do not grasp what you are referring to when you speak of humbug and hypocrisy in this matter. I cannot see how else this country could have acted in the matter with any honour. I am comforting myself with the thought that it was probably predestined that Boleskine is not let, there are trout in the Loch, and red deer and white elephants and iguanas on the hills, and places to grow taters, and the cataclysmers may not get at us there. Cheer up.

This is Sat evening. I had to be at it till 6 o'clock. Have to go to meet the 10.45 from Kings Cross with wired for war photos-what price 'some good result' now? However I have done a short med(itation), not a bit worse than usual and now I'm disposing of a letter or two, to have Sunday clear for work. Let's do all we can before the Cataclysm comes.

Cataclysmically. F.P.

Nov 23. ?1914.

Care Frater.

Read this and then nightly in dreams you'll behold Grand Treasurers General (of the O.T.O. T) gasping for gold. Literally-I do not see how quite how I am to continue supplying the sinews of war to slaughtermen (note, printers. T). after this month thanks to an additional expenditure due partly to my own damn self, partly to your own diabolical behaviour.

(I) I was not wary enough to cash your £6 cheque at once, and when I did so the Bank afterwards returned the thing marked 'refer to drawer'. Drawer had done a bunk to New York, no address, no possibility of putting Scotland Yard on his track or sal 'philosophorum on his tail, so the months

expenditure is £18 instead of £12.

(2) When I wrote to Dennes (lawyer.T) about the transfer of lease of the Studio (33 Avenue Studios, 76 Fulham Road.T) I was confronted with the fact that the previous quarter's rent was unpaid. This might have made further negotiations unpleasant, so, on consideration, I decided to repay it (though it has meant overdrawing my account) and encroaching on my next months pay) stating that you would refund me. Vain was the sacrifice. Without accounting for the Freake, the trustees of that estate refused the transfer, stating that the lease must run its due course till 1917.

The £17 due for the mortgage interest (on Boleskine.T) I had up my sleeve in reserve, of course, and that was all right. But it must be replaced ready for another emergency.

Theres two taxes of over £4 each on Boleskine due to pay in Inverness, besides my own taxes, and that will leave little out of my salary next time, and I'll grudge, really, that little to the slaughtermen, as necessary expenses out to be paid before the luxury of publication is indulged in.

In ordinary circumstances it would be sheer lunacy to live so close to ones income and even anticipate it, when at any moment in the immediate future that income may stop or be cut down. I see myself very near the end of my resources now, so its to be hoped you'll have luck and keep us off the rocks. One good asset is that I know that exit by starvation is not so bad as people imagine, so long as its not complicated by thirst, or by attempts at devouring grass.

Edinburgh is being got ready for possible raids. Parkside is half barrack now, and if we get a shell amongst the machinery....!

30

(Note. The remainder may be part of another letter.)

I am taking advantage of the leisure with which I can write this - the mail is not far a day or two, and I'm not so busy now as I was, - to jot down a few reflections, which arise from the VII Degree knowledge having had time to ferment in my brain. At the outset it did not seem anything surprising, I recognised the secret of the Old Mysteries so often hinted at, and almost guessed; though not formulated to myself in this clear and definite shape.

Book A Lts, [see letter 79]

Now with this as a base and putting together many other hints I cannot help assuming that the VIII Degree knowledge gives means whereby the ordinary momentary ecstasy of orgasm may be extended into a real and prolonged loss of ordinary consciousness and possible contact with the divine. So tremendous must be the forces behind the miracle of generation, that the above would be in no way incredible to me, and putting many things together, e.g. the familiar hints as to the nature of the philosopher's stone, your hints in 333 and elsewhere, and especially the title page for AGAPE which seems almost to give something away, I imagine that the IX Degree knowledge is that of somehow extracting the forces of the quintessence and employing their power for other purposes than those of generation. This is merely speculation on my part and I dont at all see how it could be done, but it does seem to make some old puzzles look clearer, and I can even see how - in a vague way where the joke you refer to in Levi's phrase 'magnetised electricity' comes in.

Its had a pretty disconcerting effect all this new knowledge and common sense morality coming into my life at the age where year by year I note progress towards the evil case of our father Christian Rosycross who didnt know what to do with a virgin?). But then you told me that the

IX Degree also implies knowledge of the means of reviving the fount of the quintessence if desired. Not necessarily for the latter result, but in order to acquire all the knowledge I can before the closing of the present Lodge and the erection of a superior one, I await the earliest day when you will give me leave to open the VIII or IX M.S.S.

By the way I find the smallest fire-proof safe costs £10 and a mere box £5 and I must trust for the present to the wooden bureau I keep them in.

(Note. Another stray page.) 31

Private.

Crucible No 2. (really No 1 in estimation) The Green Lion will guard that gateway of the Grail, but what could one do with a weak weapon, also the gluten of the Eagle wouldn't run to enough to make cream for that Kaph (sic. T) I'm of course writing all this down to try and formulate my ideas, vague as yet, on the process.

Above is my idea of the Green Lion. If it is approximately correct, -? is a Green Lion always essential? One fancies not, judging by the cases of Nicholas Flamel, Thomas Vaughan etc, and how the devil did the monk-alchemists manage? Others seem to suggest that one needs a small army of hired assistants to shoot white eagles and collect their remains and cook 'em and do no end of stunts, and then along comes another man and says its all child's play and that P(erdurabo) could do it whilst writing steamroller letters, or standing on his scalp-lock.

The few alchemical books I've managed a hasty look at are as clear as daylight (when genuine) up to a certain point, beyond which all is groping in a fog. The only thing seems a wet towel (sic. T) and an effort to find out what they all agree about and try to guess the rest.

It's better to worry it out for one's self, but it's slow, and I wish you'd clear the path a little e.g. I know what V.T.R.I.O.L. and S.A.L.T. connote when extended in words, but M.E.R.C.U.R.Y. and S.U.L.P.H.U.R. - no, and the words might be a clue to the nature of these principles, which I constantly confuse with each other.

The candle of the VII Degree knowledge is always throwing light on some formerly dark place, and now I seem to understand much better the 21st Key of the Tarot. One feels one needs Universal Knowledge to get the hang of everything.

----- 32

(Note. Another loose sheet.)

Quite what to make of, but am content to wait meanwhile. The rest as I have said in a previous sheet of this. /

Now it seems to me that you are destined to reach a very low point of apparent non-success. That success will come some day, I have no doubt of. It may not come in my day, but whether or not, I am not one who could gracefully share in prosperity, if he hadn't been equally ready to share adversity. I haven't really haggled over the black egg. Possessions mean nothing to me beyond the ability they confer to pursue the Great Work undisturbed. Any reluctance to 'part' was more due than anything else to sorrow that my chance of ever having complete leisure before I was too old seemed to vanish.

But then I wasn't prepared for the Cataclysm. You have had practically all my available resources and we have now reached that line over which to step means risking making ones self a burden on others, which to me spells dishonour-starvation preferably. As long as there's a roof over my head, a

little oatmeal might do for the rest.

By the way, my house is left to you and Mother (Miss L Bathurst & T) for the M.M.M. at the end of the lifetime of the person I long ago promised it to, or of one of my relations. For the meantime, to prevent any trouble arising, I have said nothing in my will about the money you have and all papers referring to it are in a closed addressed envelope which we would be returned to you. This is in case of accident of war, and only holds good till you begin to roll in gold.

By the way I hope things are not so bad as you hinted when I was in London? I took what you said about bankruptcy as half a joke and it didn't dawn on me what was implied when you gave me a receipt for the effects in the Studio. That is right enough, you did have £250 and it is a safeguard against the stele etc being sold for an old song. But I do wonder how the transfer of Boleskine would look or of it would hold good? Any involvement in bankruptcy proceedings would imply the loss of my situation instantly, besides I can only hope that it isn't in the destined order of things that you should reach that pass. Somehow I've never worried much about you as I remember your telling me how often things had come right just when you were on the verge of a close shave. Even if the above is all wrong I know you will not mind my having been frank in telling you how things have affected my outlook

*[In charge of A. C's family settlement
---- 33 to bring in about £5 a week]*

(Note. Another stray sheet.)

Your letter dated the 5th arrived this a.m. Good, as there's time for a few lines extra I want to post this early to be quite sure of your getting the draft by this mail. It was a happy thought, as you're still not on your feet and Mater is due to arrive this day. I'm trying to turn the other securities into cash but it's a pretty hopeless job. However the other 50 may come along soon and there's the Boleskine rent in another month. By the way what did you do with the Rider debenture? I've been praying with tears in my eyes to Mater, and now (Miss) Hobbs to try and lay hands on it. Awkward if it's lost. Letter from poor Hobbs this a.m. Electric Co going to turn off their demagnetised electricity, falling £5 Monday. Will pitilessly deprive Bnees (the Lawyer. T) of £5 and send 35 only to encourage Clay (printer) Dennes think of Equinox No 10. T)

Now that was a good interesting letter this a.m. Confirms my feeling that you are on the eve of THE splendid results and sooner than one dared hope. My Aunt! but it will be SPLENDID if I'm in a position to say to Nelsons "No, I'm not going to do that - Sack me!" Things have been quite nice since I made a firm stand, about March last, but there's new clouds in the air and I struck (last night, curiously) about breaking the pavement with a French poodle! This is a joke and you won't understand it a bit and it's not worth explaining - (Hound-eruelt, anyway, Horrid cruelty, any way, to a Mystic Animal) I'm not in the boss's best books, I fancy. "G.M.C. is a terrible fellow for not doing exactly as he is told" is his opinion (same as P(erdurabo)'s. There isn't much of the flunkey in G.M.C. and I do get un-PAXtific if initiative is regarded as a crime.

(Shant kisshands (or any other bit of Baph(omet)) on appointment as G.M. Gnostic Sub:Co.)

I meant to borrow a trifle of a million or two, buy Nelsons, so that no publisher or printer on earth should exceed us in skendour splendour and pride. Special buildings for A.A. and O.T.O official publications, no dem machinery, artist craftsmen... .

(note. "nother fragment. ? 1914) 34

Bang! goes another sheet and more time. I'll let you off all I can. This is only to say I am enclosing all the proofs I have minus one which was seen coloured and which I have not at hand. a penny plain duplicate is enclosed however, the rose and yods. (Note. I think this refers to an edition of Liber C. → it might however be Equinox no 10. T)

Now I must wind up I hope you don't mind all this pencil scribble, its quicker than and can be done in odd intervals of time. Also excuse all the informality of it. I trust the phlebitis leg is better and that you are well, generally.

Mother wa's cheerful last time I wrote, becos an Australian cruiser had got in a whack at the Emden. "bout the only instance by the way of the Huns having had any idea of playing the game like Men. Chalk it up.

Just a minute left, all go od wishes on all planes in every way

Yours fraternally. F.P.

Undated. ? Sept. ? 1914. 35
Care Frater.

Its difficult to get a letter written nowadays, or even to hear myself think. I will have to get used to quite a new order of things. I've just engaged a housekeeper as I can't get on very well alone, longer. A ~~loved~~ lovely hour of sixty, but shell give me no trouble I imagine.

I have taken great note of what you say regarding the real object of the O.T.O.. By the 'Ship' you refer to the Noah's Ark chapter in 'The Canopus' ? the ark being for the preservation of the Body of Truth

The question rises-might you not have given me some hint of this earlier? It would have made some difference, and made the privilege of helping seem greater-but doubtless you knew best when to time the communication.

There isn't much good in anticipating real or seeming evil, usually, but if permissible, you might give me a little idea as to the probable course of events, by way of being prepared for the eventualities or of foreseeing what to do. For instance, it seemed to me that I was merely helping you over a temporary crisis, at the cost of the ~~abili~~ ability to purchase what would enable me to 'retire' not too late in life if I chose, or to offer a home, perchance, to someone I care for, if--- But if ruin is coming for this country, not only were the latter things illusory, but my retirement might come about in an involuntary fashion. If that is to be, it is as well to be prepared to use it for my own and the general benefit, and to guard against it a bit.

The securities I hoped, were something solid to leave for my relations, as well as to provide a few pounds yearly, certain, in case of misfortune, but I take your hint that they may become waste paper, so if I could get rid of them, I should feel freer now to add them to the common stock, the problem is How?

I wrote to my lawyer to see if he could suggest anything. No, private bargain is the only possibility. I wouldn't try the bank, except as a pis aller, it wasn't a pleasant or inexpensive game last time-and of course I want to get rid of the stuff not to pay 6 per cent on it for ever and ever. No that won't do at all. If it were not like begging I'd ask a very distant rich relation to purchase the stuff for £250, not as a bargain but by way of doing a good deed to humanity.

For the present-I have guaranteed £10 towards publication expenses (note. probably for O.T.O. manifesto s. T) and shall try to wipe out that

obligation at the end of the present month. You can have it in small weekly sums if you like. But I do not know what claims there may be on me, and I could not guarantee the whole, as it will come out of my last months pay.

It wasnt a swellish funeral I was thinking about, but rather the leaving something easily accessible to my executors to pay debts and not embarrass them by having nothing wherewith to pay the hundred odd expenses that always occur. Looks as if I may have to eat my 'funeral' yet. There's always the problem of my poor step-sister also, who is practically dead yet has to be maintained, and is healthier and stronger than ever. Fortunately her house is let, still, and that pays half her board.

Life is depressing at present, and my thoughts are of necessity concentrated on this dismal war business, and I concluded today that one of the truest things you have written is that 'life is a horror, insane'.

I want to come up to London sometime, I can get relieved for a week or two in Oct I think if all goes well, so far-It feels silly to be VII degree and not know what the VI and VII are. I am not getting on, now, by meditation, and want knowledge as a lesser good. Do we may share a Sardanapalian banquet once more of boiled eggs in the Studio. Again the table set for Raal and Baphomet? We dont seem to have heard anything of Wegg lately. ??

I expect you will be furiously busy, so I wont expect an answer.

--- (Note. the following may belong to another letter)

The only thing now is to do what is possible and keep up the practice till happier times come round. 36

I think you know pretty well what the forces behind this crisis are, and what is likely to come of it though you may feel bound to keep silence about it. Even suppose the Prussian gets caught and crushed, I can see a way in which a real cataclysm may follow, and so-called civilisation be crushed out.

What you say about securities is true. I hadnt thought much about it, not having enough to be very anxious about. But now you mention it, Fidlers debenture might conceivably become waste paper, also the tram shares. How to get rid of either I dont k now. Letchworth has never produced a half-penny of dividend. These three things represent 100 each, sunk. There was an odd £130 of the legacy with which I meant to purchase a £10 annuity. The sudden demand for £17 odds, interest on the £900 (Note presumably a mortgage on Boleskine. T) just at that time forced me to break into it and the scheme evaporated.

My lawyer just then asked if I had anything I cared to invest in Canadian mortgages as they had a first class thing. I demurred about tying anything up. but they assured me it was like putting it in the bank as they could release-it realise on it at a days notice. That isn't likely now and as it is on land, I imagine, I feel easy about it. As this is a reserve for quite possible accidents now, I dont want to break into it-nor into two small sums which I have tied up for my funeral expenses. I will be in funds on Monday to the extent of my months salary and £1 now and then then will be possible, but you must remember I am bound to help here and things may get bad yet

I have saved a little by not having a housekeeper, but now, I cant manage longer and am trying to arrange about one at once. Its comforting in a way to be so really busy, but to keep fit, I must have comfort at home. If I cant get a suitable person, Ill have to give in and go and live at some dam hotel.

I am slowly reducing a pile of manifestos and wish I could do more

You see I have always been a very retiring person and my circle of friends is small. Ten years ago I got introduced to some of the sweller sort of Theosophists, but drawing room teas and talk were not in my line and I quickly dropped them. The Mr Wilson who once thought of joining the A.A. I have kept tolerably friendly with and have hopes of getting him in. Also I ~~see~~ people in London. (or 2)

One copy (M.M.M. Manifesto; T) I sent to the Theosophical Society here, the only address I could get hold of. I shall have much less time than ever and any suggestions or addresses you can send me will be welcome. Must go and try to catch the late London mail. Will post the cutting first possible moment and perhaps on Sunday

Fraternally. F.P.

If you can suggest how to realise the securities, do so. I'm no good at this sort of thing.

----- 37

Undated. ? 1914

Dear (and Diabolical) Care Frater

Well! Of all the ~~luck~~! The American editor is not deterred by silly fear of the laws of libel if he can provide something 'spicy' and I don't suppose we-must we'll get anything so hot in this country. All the same I suppose we must in the nature of things expect filth of this kind when the baser kind of penny weekly gets hold of Liber Legis and so forth. It has seemed to me for long to be all in the day's work.

Apart from that the article was rather a treat. Dear God! what a feast ~~the~~ lunatic has provided. What a pity I cannot come up to London and see the lovely aristocrat-esses derobing publicly and wallowing in Perdurabo's gore in the infernal orgies.

I will certainly preserve and return that rare and refreshing specimen but would like to show it to a friend who is out of town till Monday, as a fair warning of what friendship with me may involve. Then it should be carefully mounted and framed and put amongst our archives.

By the way I'm in for rather a tough time. Today's experience on the paper showed that I must be on the spot quite early in the mornings. It was the not needing to be in till 9.30 or 10 that made regular meditation practice possible to me, and this is rather a blow. I shall have to rearrange my methods somehow, it doesn't seem possible to rise any earlier than at present, and it rather puzzles me why I cannot with advancing years do with less sleep.

Of course I quite understand the necessity of keeping the mind bent on the one direction all the time apart from the stated periods of formal meditation. I managed it pretty well so long as I was not at business, and now it's all broken up. At the same time it shows fair control, that at this time I can shut ordinary thought quite out of my mind for stated periods

(Note. Remainder of letter missing. T)

Undated. ? 1914.
Care Frater

38

I perfectly agree with you, the scattering of that poem (probably to America, published in the English Review, October 1914. T) broadcast would do immense good but more especially in the States. It's not in to-day's Times I see, I wish you had sent it to John Buchan at our London place, Paternoster Row, but as I've made an effort with the firm today, wait-

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Monday is our busiest day of all, but I seized an opportunity to bring it under Mr Brown's notice. Before I got it well into his hands we were interrupted and I had to leave it. I will try again tomorrow, but for reasons known to myself, I am not very hopeful.

Personally I believe that to bring Germany to her knees instantly, the States have only to throw their weight into the scale and there seem indications that this will come. If I were in a position to do so I would guarantee the firm the expenses of production, but yet for heavens sake don't assume that Nelsons are the only publishers or that I have sufficient influence with them. I will do my best, you may be sure and am doing for you what I wouldn't do for myself. I will let you know at once of any result tomorrow.

The wonder is that the Louvain business and the Antwerp bombs did not make the States see their obvious duty at once. I always have wondered why the remain neutral against the obvious World Enemies. Death to the Huns! Good for you, to go to the F.O. (Foreign Office.. ? T) Strike hard and low and to Hell with the Huns, Master.

F. P.

Undated. 1914 ? ³⁴ See Letter 45
Care Frater.

I hoped for a line or two or a wire to say what to do re sending 'Appeal' (?) to the American Republic. A poem, T) to Scotsman etc I have no warrant to offer it minus payment tho' I take it that is the intention. I have not seen the 'Times' since Tuesday and do not know if you have got it in. The movement seems to be gathering weight every day. i.e. to bring America to coming in, it is her interest in every way. Have you had any success so far? If you wire to that effect when you get this I will send copy to Scotsman at once.

I am going to try the Bank with those securities, but only if I can finally get rid of them, not borrow on them. Do you think it is urgent enough to get rid of them now, at a considerable sacrifice rather than wait and see them become waste paper? If this is the downfall of our present social system and of civilisation (which is nothing to weep for) the question is whether the process is likely to be sudden and complete, or gradual and long protracted. Some guidance would be useful (and will not be communicated to others).

Here is a stray 10/- which I enclose to buy halfpenny stamps. You are a bad man to use penny stamps to post newspapers with.

F. P.

40

Undated. ? 1914.

Care Frater.

Good news! I had begun a letter to you on Friday after receiving you second one that day and the other cheque and said that it looked to me very like Jupiter taking Saturn's place in your directions, and now it looks like it, by Jupiter! See the letter attached. Politeness demands an immediate reply, so I've spent a hapless morning concocting (I hope) a diplomatic masterpiece with a view to landing that very promising trout by not appearing too eager about it. You'll see by the copy that it commits us to nothing till I have your advice. I rather infer that it will be a favour if we let the place (Boleskine, T) and that touch about its peacefulness is a gem.

Dr Murray desirous tenant at Boleskine 27

Put seriously I am bound to get your opinion in the light of recent revelations as to whether you don't want to keep the place free as a city of refuge or as a site for the Vault?

I've got my two £100 securities into the hands of a stockbroker and have agreed to a probable loss of 25 per cent or 30 at a pinch. If Jupiter keeps propitious we may have £150 for printing purposes. That other cheque that came leaves me still with £5 at disposal if wanted.

What a genius I am at figures. I said I'd come for a week, 29th to 13th. I meant Oct 6 but I daresay the ~~as~~ earlier date will be best? I will finish Friday's letter later, I was in a writing mood and its mostly gossip. I must finish this and get it posted if you are to get it Monday, which is the Autumn holiday here and I'll not be at the works till the late afternoon. I hope this will find you lots better and not so pessimistic, all hat! Baphomet.

Fraternally F.P.

(Note. The following is a copy of letter to Dr Murray Leslie mentioned above.)

Undated. 1914 ?.

41

To Dr Murray Leslie.

Dear Sir.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th. I must necessarily communicate with the other members of the Council (of O.T.O. T) in London before I can reply quite definitely. I may say however that I am afraid the question of a long lease would not be seriously considered. It is in fact with reluctance that we are thinking of letting Boleskine for the short term of years that will intervene before we can occupy it.

Just lately its great desirability as a secure and peaceful residence in the event of complications arising from the War came into prominence and I must ascertain if that point still weighs. There is no doubt however that an offer from an exceptionally good tenant to take the place on a short lease of three years would be considered and we might even consider five, if it can be arranged.

To facilitate matters and to enable me to lay the matter before the Council in full shape, would you care to make me a definite offer for a three years lease on your friend's behalf. It would weigh in favour of the concession if the tenant would offer in addition to keeping the same good order as you have it, to keep the house in good internal and external repair so that at the expiration of the tenancy we should be able to occupy the place at once. I am doubtful if the Council would be satisfied with the present rental on a short lease, but will ascertain. We had in fact thought of the more profitable basis of monthly tenancies and have reason to expect offers shortly.

Your friend might prefer to take the house for two years first, and leave the other two an open question?

Boleskine is of considerable historic importance to us, as well as a pleasant residence, hence the reluctance to let it for very long. It is obvious, by the way, that we are losing an exceptionally good tenant in Mrs Murray Leslie, and we should have made no difficulty had she desired to remain a little while longer. With compliments, yours sincerely

Geo M Cowie

Undated. 1914 ?

Care Frater

20/- enclosed in kind. This clears me off and according to my simple system of book-keeping, the G.T.O. is gifted with the noble sum of 1/9 or so (Possibly only 9 d). I did my best today, was ready to move heaven and earth and hell to make myself a general nuisance and get your poem printed someway or other. The only result was a flat and decisive refusal. The firm do not appear to believe in the possibility of, or any necessity for, American intervention, and do not believe that the poem would help in any event. I had got a typed copy made so that if they kept the original I could pass a copy on to the Scotsman also. I nearly did so, but after decided to wait your next advice. I assume you'd want the newspapers to print it indifferent to fee? If the original is scarce, two typed copies (omitting the 2 stanzas) are at your service and I'd forward them to any paper you like - Scotsman, Herald etc.

Must stop, interrupted. Yours F.P.

Dec 23. 1914.

From G.C.M. VII Degree (below zero)

Maddened Moneyless Mystics

These -

Care Frater

Your little joke came off. Seeing a registered letter my first wild plunge was for the million dollar cheque sure to be enclosed. Sold again. But its a good idea registering letters and if this one is so, it isn't revenue but respectful imitation of a Great Idea which would at first have made me less hasty about pitching ten whole bob away under the Atlantic. But that's really perhaps because, as the date on your letter shows you must have missed a mail, as perhaps I did too, and as the young lady did when driven to remark "he cometh not" (To avoid giving you pain - this quotation is from Robert Burns.)

I am glad to see you are weakening about the Huns. An arch but foolish bishop here thoughtfully sat down in the arm chair to recall sacred memories of Gott's pet and the Hun of a chair turned red hot and he couldn't endure his end on it after, poor person. You'll know by this time that the gallant fellows after thoughtfully avoiding our contemptible little fleet (for fear of hurting it) spent a merry hour in defiance of the formidable fortifications of Scarborough (one enormous gun 3 centuries old on a hotel lawn) and in face of fearful odds and with Gott's help put an end to several ferocious infants, wimmen folks, and a few negligible men. St Giles here, presents just the kind of target they like, so probably we'll get cinematographed too. It doesn't show a bad spirit by the way, that Scarborough is crowded and excursion trains go packed to that scene of frightfulness. It's not the murder I mind, death isn't much, its the vileness and baseness of the Hunnish mind and its stupidity besides. And worse and wickeder than all they have no sense of humour! I turn back to the first page of this and console myself. I'm assured I'm not a German.

There isn't going to be any quintupple alliance in 1915. Who'd trust a German's word again? I'm not rabid, really, but I didn't like your kindness to Kaisers and you'll get that rubbed into you for ever, now. I know quite well of course that you'll see sub-lunary things with detachment and from a viewpoint the rest of us haven't attained to, and I keep that in mind. But may I be steamrollered if the playful little atrocities and sneak ~~the~~ -

thieveishness of the Hun's are exaggerated by the papers-I like what you say about the Press. You who are living just where the invention of 'news' to feed the crowd with is-oh what isn't it? No newspaper, in the nature of things can tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Here on the whole we manage to be pretty decent, the Hun press is gagged, bound and throttled, and doesn't count. But America. Cable 'Audacious attempt to explode Hun's Mines' and you get 2 pages illustrated of scare lines ~~and~~ thrilling details of the loss of the - a Super D. down to the Captains last words to send to his mother. The censoring has often been silly and useless, but it's on the whole better than letting some egregious Russell give away the whole show in the Times and supply the Hunnish staff with the very details they want. Fortunately if there's anyone whose a worse fool than the Censor, it's the Kaiser-Pretty fool I am too, to waste time and paper damning the Hun when there are hundreds of other things to say.

The lease hasn't got completed yet but there's no hitch that I know of. We are in for over £20 worth of sanitary and other repairs unavoidable, and wise I think if only to set a shining example to the tenant. I'd have preferred to get the thing done in detail but as everything has to come from Inverness it's cheaper to have all done at once.

I hope Mrs B(rook) will have the decency to pay up the quarter in advance. It would get me out of a hole, and would let me clear the studio rent. I relentlessly sent Hammond only 30/- last time, but he wrote so pitiful a letter I was driven to overdraw my account again and let him have £3. Foolish, really, I should have insisted on seeing all the proofs first. There's only 3D/- more due and I'll hold it back, till - But Hammond says there are extras beyond the £30. I don't quite understand.

Mother's last letter was quite cheerful and she seems all right.
(note. remainder may not belong to this letter, T)

Goodness what a lot one still has to learn. And there time is getting short too. It's much better to worry out things for one's self, but give me hints please when I'm on or off the track, so as not to waste time in no-roads.

Med(itation) goes well enough, but it's a long long way to Tipheetah-raray by that road, when one can only travel at some poor 40 or 60 minutes a day. A good point is that I can now, in an imperfect and shaky way detach as it were, the will from the mind, keeping it intent on one point, without any actual idea or ideas, just holding it motionless, till the idea pops up its damn head that I am doing it ~~now~~ that I should do the trick this time, or that Brother Body is moaning or that Dog of Evil, the Mind whimpering in its sleep, etc etc etc etc. dua waddu al-Bahrur

Lots more to say, but no time to write it. Mater should arrive by the Lusitania 2 or 3 days after you get this - at least her doom is sealed, passage booked and if these goods from Heaven are not delivered it isn't the fault of F.P.

5 Jan 15.
Care Frater.

The Wednesday after I wrote was such a rush day that the ransack of the "advocates" was impossible. Yesterday I hoped to manage it, but found myself laid on my back in bed all day. Unusual. Today I've been out but not very fit, and tomorrow I'll be busy I fear. It was not till Saturday that it entered my tortoise-like mind-brain that the man to help me out was Gardner whom I occasionally have bought books from, and who is an expert in this kind of literature. (He is one of Wynn Westcott's crowd and a VII

degree no less. You'll probably know what that is worth in the Regts Ros(icrucian) Soc(iety) I wrote and he gave me the names of three books. I wired today for him to send me the one he considered best, and if it comes in time, I will send it on an excerpt by this same mail. He tells me the original was in Arabic (which would be even better for your purpose?) and, that the various Greek and Latin translations are a matter of dispute. If it doesn't come by this mail you can count on it by the next.

The Boleskine lease has at last come for my (the final) signature, so we are secure. That dear Mrs Brooks hasn't come up to the scratch with the rent. Hun! There was a demand today for the fire insurance and a merry letter from Inverness to state that a payment of one third more was compulsory on the tax. (War!) I should be in a sad way but for the hope that dollars will materialise by Monday next. Good!

As I will be busy tomorrow I am scribbling this tonight to be sure of catching the mail with one thing at least. No letter complete without insulting remarks on the Huns. I thought nothing of the cutting you sent. Its a very thin excuse of the Americas for keeping out of the pie. Nobody expects, for instance, that the Cossacks will act like kid gloved plaster saints when they get into Prussia. The Huns will whine that it isn't playing the-game-fair, of course. They think the heads I win tails you lose game was their game. Fools. No, Miss "merica, go on worshipping the great god Dollars, and be dishonoured for ever. Your very thin excuse won't wash. I have spoken.

No time to worry you're e. other matters. Let them simmer for a bit. Chaos is taking shape with tortoise like rapidity. More anon. Vale frater! Pax vobiscum! But

Foe to P russians.

45

(Note The next three letters should follow those on p 26 previous. T)
Undated. ? 1914.

Care Frater. *see letter 34 39*

Thanks for your long and interesting letter. It was good of you to take the trouble and it gives one plenty of food for thought. I've posted the 'Appeal' to the Scotsman and enclose copy of my letter to show exactly what I've said. If they think well of it they'll probably write to you for confirmation. I thought that the wisest way. If they simply send the copy back to me I will then try the Herald.

Mr N(elson) by the way is not here but with the troops. He has been long been an officer in the Yeomanry and has offered to serve abroad if called on. It was another member of the firm I saw, the acting head.

My pile of Manifestos (Of M.M.M. T) is diminishing gradually. Today I've got the addresses of the principal Lodges in Edinburgh and will send each a copy. Time is scatty but when possible I'll get Glasgow addresses too.

I made an effort to get Wilson to come in, but he sticks to conventional Christianity and all that. No good. *He was the Ammonite Army of the Golden Dawn*

By the way I notice that a Ros(icrucian) Soc(iety) in Edinburgh, which I'd never heard of before. I was told a year or so ago that Waite had opened a Temple in Edinburgh, it may have been in this connection.

Your mention of geomancy (I can't work it) reminds me that I've never finished the fair copy of your new method. It's not been touched since mid-July, being one of the things I meant to finish in any spare intervals

during my retirement which didnt come off. "Also I've never written or sent the working you did to Windram. I'm waiting for a copy of the O(ccult) R(eview) to see the letter you referred to of his, by the way. No indication came as to that journey due East from Edinburgh, or I might have gone to Copenhagen and got locked up in the Baltic. It's a far cry to Kircudbright, but I will write that person and get her to tell me what she is referring to or wants.

I've written in an indirect way to the relative in question (really to his brother) to see if there's any likelihood-we'll see. Let the printers wait a bit. I'll let you know results when I hear.

F.P.

I wish your lovely masked aristocmatesses would send a few cheques!

46

Undated. Draft. 'Letter on same lines sent to Scotsman'.

Dear Sir

Appeal to the American Republic (a few hours? March 1914)

I am empowered by the author of the enclosed to offer it to you for re-publication in the columns of the Scotsman-should you so desire. The importance of inducing the United States to throw in their lot weight into the scale and that quickly at the present crisis can hardly be over-estimated. I am authorised to state in confidence, that to the authors knowledge, the publication would be pleasing to the Government. If you should like to confirm this by direct reference, the author is Mr Aleister Crowley, 33 Avenue Studios, 76 Fulham Road, London S.W. He would accept any payment you think fair; and I am sure he would not object to your cutting out stanzas if you wish think fit. Should you not desire the poem, will you please return it to me personally.

With compliments yours truly George M Cowie.

47

Undated. 1914?

Care Frater.

The Scotsman- he promptly returned the poem with the normal printed refusal. Glad the E(nglish) R(eview) is taking it. (Note in Oct 1914, and called there To America. T)

I heard yesterday from the person I wrote to re the securities. He will try to dispose of them for me-which doesn't mean much. He says his brother (the rich one) isn't likely to look at them at all. I think I will try a stockbroker the bank manager recommended, as being probably quicker.

I've been waiting in vain for a copy (ordered) of the O(ccult) R(eview) for August (is it?) to see what the letter is that you and your Kircudbrightshire correspondent refer to. I won't get it till tomorrow now and have not as yet written to her. I had ordered the September number at first and it took days to get. rather

I know you are bound to see everything in a very different light from the common man, and I am always open to correction. Still your apparent excuse for Germany ~~rath~~ startled me. I can see no excuse or justification whatever for her share of this business. It seems to me as if the national spirit were one of ruthless self aggrandisement for the lowest material ends, wholly brutal and evil.

If you have to fight one day I know you won't fight foul, if mercilessly. L(iber)L(egis) doesn't mean mere brute bullying for no good end, or merely because one is strong. Germany is fighting foul and deserves no mercy. One considers that the Karma of the unhappy wretch One wonders what the Karma of the unhappy wretched will be like, who is in a way responsible. Doubtless he himself is a victim of circumstances or a tool in the hands of Fate. One good thing-his sickness cant should be a death blow to Cant in

general for the future. N.B. all this is to 'draw' you, you know. I rather want to know how the thing looks to you
 Fraternally. F.P.

8 Feb 15

48

Care Frater

I had yours of 23rd Jan on Saturday. You will have got a previous letter which I had posted the day before. Also a cable. F.P. (Cowie.T) he damned around for a hell of a time on getting the request to find the Arabic original and translate it. The poor devil has his hands full enough and its like the impossible tasks the princesses in the Fairy Tales get given them by cruel stepmothers. By time and by dint of making oneself a nuisance one could do it. Its the paucity of time that is the difficulty. I've been going to the advocates in my lunch hour-Saturday I managed to get off for a good hour or two-the people were inclined to be ungracious at first, but on Saturday one of them asked, since I was interested in alchemy, did I know Ferguson's Bibliotheca Chemica? It turned out to be a huge catalogue of a chemical and alchemical library formed by a Glasgow doctor and is really valuable owing to the numerous notes and cross references. I had got a Geber (? T) in case there was any clue to be found. No, but turning to this catalogue I found three pages of references to the Smaragdine Tablet, noting various authors by whom it is quoted and giving the same original as Gardner mentioned, a Nurnberg book of 1541. No clue to, or mention of any Arabic or other than Latin original. The advocates do not possess this rare book and the British Museum is the only likely place. So I have written there to see if they possess it, or can trace any Arabic version, M.S. or otherwise.

I must find out what became of Dr Young's library. It must have been a prodigious collection, pity if dispersed.

The Dee book is Monas Hieroglyphica. It was printed at Antwerp in the pre-Kelly days I've not been able to look it up again. Being in Latin I couldn't tell if it was any good or not. (Not knowing Latin is a serious handicap)

Do you know the Isaac tablet of Cardinal Bembo? I was curious to see it and took advantage of the advocates to unearth it. They have Pignorino (? T) Is it of any importance? Personally I cannot discover any meaning in it. It is made up of Egyptian figures with a sort of Greek flavour about them and apparently refers to the Zodiac. There is a very curious and mysterious hermaphroditic figure in the same book, which probably you know of "

(remainder of letter missing.T)

Undated. 1915 ?
 Care Frater.

49

Good news at last by Jupiter! who says there isn't Justice in this world. Anyone who loves the Hun as himself and has Kompassion on Kaisers, deserves to be reduced to his bottom dollar! and 25 cents over, is much too good for him.

Seriously I don't worry about you, as you are always pulled out somehow. As for Mater you needn't worry too much, as she knows that she needn't starve at least, so long as I have anything to share. And if she decides to go out to you, she knows her fare is ready. But ? is it wise-And at this moment its quite possible she might be torpedoed by the gentle fair-playing Hun.

I sent you another copy of the Smaragdine. The Latin in all versions is probably corrupt, but that last one had been annotated by some one and corrected. The first two were from Lettners 'Theatrum Chemicum' a collection in Latin of the principal alchemical writers. The third is from that rather remarkable book The Suggestive Inquiry, the first time I had come across a copy. Its horribly difficult to get through such a book in snatches of time at a Library. I tried to get the reprint so much talked of 3 years ago, but Watkins tells me it was never published after all. So far as I have read it it does not seem to me as if the author had come too near giving away the secret or had guessed it, but we'll see. You know the edition was suppressed or bought up as far as possible, only a few copies being left. The excerpts alone make it a quite valuable book.

I discovered another really valuable book the 'Hermetic Museum' in English. It contains 22 of the best alchemical writers, all obviously genuine, but requiring much time to wrest the secret from 'em. They wont lend out a book without an Advocates order and (thank God) I know no such a person.

I thought that if a guinea would buy a copy it would be worth more than my own while, and that I could manage that this month (especially as you're sending me £600) I wrote Gardner, he has a copy but wants £3.3.0 and has a customer ready for if I don't say 'done'. Dunno; just got his letter and will sleep on it. Could offer him £1.1. down and trust me for the rest, true Perdurabo style. (A few more deadly insults and I will be steam rollered and avenging punitive currented besides). This 'Museum', by the way, has the trail of Waite over it, but only to the extent of the preface. He didn't translate it, but being in 1895 the most eminent authority on True Wisdom he was asked to make himself the Front Door to the Museum.

The only surviving copy of the Smaragdine (Tablet) in the original Arabic was in Louvain University and the Kultured Ones had extensive extreme pleasure in making holes in it in their playful way. You wont blame 'em?

? a IX^o working

As to the O.T.O.-one startling chemical experiment in my last. No others makes me feel like the old woman 'Lawk a missy on me, this is none of I'.

Destroy that paper by the way seeing it refers to some really sacred and intimate matters as well as the experiment. Please.

I don't know that I am very far on after all. A test is that I can still make very little sense out of that puzzle in the Equinox 'Brother Perardua'. That he was right skilful at the athanor I can well believe! but a lot more is still vague. and I do want to know what it is the Seven Wardens correspond to in the Macrocosm and how they connect with the chakras. The Sphinx and the Green Lion grow less and less of enigmas, but I can't make out if the result referred to is alchemical or refers to the annihilation of the personality or what.

No good! the more one goes on the greater an ignoramus one feels and here at the venerable age of 54 years, my hair that is hoary with age is bending over a Latin grammar becos a dictionary is not much good if you don't know the tenses for certain etc etc and I'm always being floored. But still for an artist I've done pretty well these last years.

The Hun is the most pestilent and poisonous chancre as ever was, only curable by complete excision. The point of view you indicate is true enough and certainly the Hun doesn't disturb my meditations much. But the point is this - you pick out this pestilence and chuckle and say Look! here's our model, well hold up our heads after this! Who calls us Thelemites will do us wrong if the Hunnish "ill is to be held up as an

for I think J.F.L Fuller our ardent Ad Astra

exemplar. But that was 6 months ago and you didn't know that the Hun was going to give points to the Qliphoth so I'll graciously forgive you if you will say 'Damn the Huns' just once. If only I had had the sense to praise the beasts than I should have got steam rollered for that, and the Hun would have been damned and all would have been PAX. Its the wise chela knows when to stop baiting the guru-so guru having endured even unto the end of this letter we'll stop (pro tem, more in our next) and express the pious wish that he'll get one dollar and 50 cents next time. 10.20 p.m. must stop-I do wish more Jupiter would come in. Its no light matter that you should be so worried and crippled by a senseless want of pence.

Fraternally. F.P.

Undated ? 1915
Care Frater

50 A.C. was in the USA now beginning his pro-German campaign in order to bring America into the war. A typical piece ? A.C.'s nearest P.I.Y.

Violent steam-roller attack repulsed! F.P.-withdrawing his tortoise like brain within his carapace, the steam roller goes on its wild career harmlessly. But as this threatens to become an endless subject leading to great waste of steam I conclude that the wisest plan will be to state in plain language words precisely what I feel about this matter and wherein lies my special horror of the Hun

(No 8ae page of diatribe against the Hun omitted. T)

The horror that has weighed on my mind is frankly this, that the gang of high-placed but ignoble ruffians, who have got the control are really in a wrongheaded and low minded way attempting to carry out the Law of the Strong, and that judging by the M.S. you gave me to read, you apparently recognise them as exponents of the Law and glory in the fact that it will enable us to lift our heads as exponents of that Law. I do not know whether I have misread you or not- I am stating frankly the condition of mind I am in about the matter, it is impossible for me to believe the the Law of Thelema means mere licence.

We will put it down as due to my own misunderstanding, but to speak frankly, there is something totally incomprehensible to me in your attitude towards the Germans. In one of your early poems you come down like a Holy Terror on the toes of the English, dismissing the Hun with a friendly pat on the back-mind and be a good boy Germany and one day you'll be O.H.O. (Note Theodore Reuss' title as international head of the O.T.O. T) Why this thusness? I'm not quarrelling with your views of matters, I know you are not dependent on the daily paper, like me, for your sources of information. But I have a right to my own point of view and if the Hun blatantly announces that he'd like to cut my throat and that in the most sneaky way possible, do you imagine that I am going to present the Hun with an illuminated address extolling his gallantry and virtues, and take the rest of it lying down, a la genteel Jesus and without expressing my unspeakable opinion of him. Not much.

After all this is only a question of politics, so to speak, and is outside of the real "ork. ut divergencies of opinion on politics do sometimes lead to coolness when neither party tries to understand the other and it would be as well, but mutual explanation to remove a possible cause of disharmony or else drop the Hunsavoury subject altogether. (Into Hell. Carried nem con?)

Now I am very glad you have got such a substracted sum back out of past publication expenses. Be a good boy and spend not spend at the rate of £90 in three weeks this time. I am cleaned out, and worse. To avoid trouble I paid the last of the taxes on Boleski

paid the last of the taxes on Boleskine by means of an overdraft. Rider's interest and another small whdfall this week have enabled me to partly stop the leakage (it means paying 6 per cent to the bank) but there's still a hiatus.

Printing is in a bad way in Edinburgh and I should think everywhere. We are not as badly off as some, however. Over 100 of our men are in the army and both the Nelsons have now commissions and are never seen. I wonder how long I will hold on at full pay. I note you hint that (george) get the boot on Sep 21 2.27 p.m. Lets save up for it, and saving is a Lost Art these days. Must stop, in another epistle it will be written of Green Lions etc. All good wishes. Fraternally. F.P.

Undated. 1915 ?.

Care Frater.

51

of Equinox x ?

A bit of luck. The day after I wrote you last and too late, a cheque for £50 came from my lawyer, he had managed to sell out that much (and to his own sister) and hopes to manage the rest in May. No loss, except a quarters interest to cover cost of transfer. I am sending £30 to Dennes (note. A.C's lawyers.T) to appease Clay (a printer.T) and £10 to hold again against any fresh threat of disaster. I meant to send him the whole £50 but meanwhile you may be in an awkward position, if the deal has not come off yet. So I am sending you £10 and it seems worth while cabling the fact as it might happen to be opportune, and save you anxiety about Mater and certainty is usable to obtain credit.

A photo of the first known 'edition' of the Tabula Smaradina should have reached you by the last mail or if not it will come by this, direct from the photographer.

I am not in a writing mood and somewhat weary. Getting this letter ready to post tomorrow Friday 19th. I dont know what to do about shutting up the Studio (76 Fulham Road.T) waiting till I hear from Hobbs how things stand. I infer from your anxiety about the furniture that it will be some months at least yet before the final success comes. The Boleskine stuff has been checked and its curious reading-broken, damaged, cracked, stained, no key, no hilt, no lid, useless etc to every other item. Mrs Leslie is due you £8 odd for damages, less £2 for articles left behind. £6 is quite a windfall these times.

Nobody else has paid his dem subscription yet except the noble W Steff Langston, who deserves a Tin Cross. Poor man, he's afraid he'd be thought an Imposter, if he met any other Brother, becos he doesn't know the S(igns) and p(ass) w(ord) of his Grade. I told him these were early days and that some laxity was unavoidable till the Order was firmly established. I am beginning to think that desirable consummation is nearer than I used to imagine.

I hope all is going not unfavourably meantime with you and Mater. Good night, I am a-weary. Ever yours fraternally. F.P.

52

Undated; part only.

Financial Intelligence. I found my balance down to £2.17.6 and I'm enclosing only half the promised £10, the other half further on in the month. But I have had the quarters cheque for Boleskine. Its a pity to bue it, so after careful consideration, I put my pride in my pocket and asked W and W to suggest that perhaps Mrs Brook might care to pay the £76 odd of repairs, we in return reducing the rent by an equal amount (allowing for interest) spread over the next 3 years. If this comes off it will save money that is of more importance at the present juncture for you, than a slightly reduced income later on. There's no reply, as yet, so

I dont know.

The M.M. Lodge should relieve me of a good deal of expenditure bye and bye, and perhaps take over all the charges on stored and popped property even. So there will be fewer necessary deductions from what is really your own private income, I've no report that the rival ladies are clawing each other's hair out over who is to get Boleskine.

Another undated fragment. - - - 53

Luckily the dawn meditation has not now to be perforce neglected. One good sign is that the brain, without any formula will fall at once into a passive condition as if automatically and remain still. But that can't be maintained long enough. The dog G.M.C(owie) remains on the watch over his own imaginary self. If the beast could only forget all about that for a moment, then---

Really the dog G.M.C. is not much more concerned about Brother Body's skin than F.P. If there were nobody else to be hurt beyond himself, then the dog might fear little. Once, just to see if it could be done, he went rigorously without solid food for 8 days. Could have gone on comfortably but for pointed remarks about death's head appearance. Useful knowledge that starvation is not as dreadful as people suppose.

And then I possess The Elixir. The one you are so ignorant as to despise. It relates to the XXIst Key of the Tarot (K.I (in Hebrew.T) and was revealed by the Lords of the Forces of Life. You can have some next time. The table shall be set. For Baal and Baphomet. Here is the Kaph-i: Here A lang lang spoon is near. They need it, do the dandies who sup Kaph with Baphomet! -----

54

Friday 22. ? month, 1915.

On Wed I heard from Mater that she was threatened with the bailiffs for studio rates (.33 Avenue Studios. T) I was at a loss, being cleaned out and account overdrawn. I sent her £2 however for personal emergency till gold came from you, or the quarters cheque (for Boleskine rent. T) which I was expecting daily. Luckily there was a note from W and W next morning to say they had the cheque but were holding it over till certain costs known. On the strength of this I was able to arrange with the bank to overdraw for a few days and wired Mater she'd get £12 today certain so that's all right. £15 will have to go for the studio rent overdue, and if the balance left is sufficient to pay our share of the stamps, costs etc well be lucky.

I understand Clay is threatening execution for an account of £200. I thought it well to write Dennes to mention that I held your receipt for the things in the Studio and that you would be able very soon to send a proportion of the account. I hope you will. Frankly my sympathies are all with the poor printers. It isn't the most lucrative of trades and its their staff who will suffer. I know. *The printer*

The New York papers seem to want words to express their disgust at the last gallant exploit and glorious victory of the Yahsons. There's something pathetic about seeing a whole nation dancing with joy over plain assassination. A bomb dropped at Sarajevo is bad enough to go to war about, a bomb dropped in the night over Sandringham is a gallant exploit. Faugh! The German weeps if the other boys don't fight fair (they do) Foulness is his own perquisite.

Scribbling this at business to catch the 4.20 clearance.

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Undated. ? 1915
Care Frater.

55
I'm writing well in advance of the mail (Monday p.m. 15th) to try and write fully and leisurely this time. Today I got yours dated the 2nd and so, written two or three days before you got mine the cable that I knew would relieve your mind and be worth the little expense. (I did it for 3/- this time) Therefore by the time I received yours M.O.H. (Mother or Miss L Bathurst ? T) was already 48 hours on her way to you. I was able to infer, easily, the importance of her presence, from the remarks about the S.M. (? U.M. ? T) in the letter a week previous. I wrote to her immediately but she had made up her mind and did not need any urging. If it had not been for that stray hint I might have doubted the wisdom of her going across till you could't cable success. But it has worked out all right and as soon as it could be definitely settled I wired to you and booked her berth. Thank goodness I was able to send her over in comfort and by a good boat. By this time you will have got the goods I hope in safety and all will be well. I was sorry I couldn't afford a Saturday run to Liverpool to see her off, I was afraid she would be alone, which would be rather dismal for her, but as a letter and p.c. from her, posted apparently in Chelsea last night, have just come, I guess that Miss Otter kindly went with her. What price Sherlock Holmes?

Gwendolen

M.O.H. will have told you all about the alarms and excursions of last week. How its ended I don't know, there was no word from Dennes this morning. Also I don't know if the Rider's debenture was found or not, or if the blooming idol did the trick - I regarded the great gawd Budd as my property, legally, but as it turned out I'm a godless person after all. I thought that receipt, as you did, would protect the studio things, but no, and the same will be the case with the Boleskine furniture?. Will it be worth while making out a bill of sale for both. Its all grist for Dennes of course, and more six and eightpences added to it expect a pretty big bill.

As regards shutting up the studio and warehousing the stuff I think that is a wise precaution and I was about to write to Hobbs and ask her to arrange matters, but then M.O.H. says she has let the studio (furnished presumably) to a friend with a name that made my hair stand on end till it turned out he was only a Swede. He had better wait till the 6 weeks are up and that will give you time to advise me. I will write Hobbs now to secure any specially valuable books or light matters by sending them here. I hope Mater made the Stèle secure.

I wrote to my lawyer to ask about that £100. I thought at best I could use it to raise 50 at the bank, but rather to my surprise he says he has a client who may take 50 of it in a week or so, and he can dispose of the rest in May. I'd rather it had been one of the other unsaleable things. Its rather a pity. However I wrote Dennes yesterday (so that they'd get it this a.m.) that failing Budd (an image of Buddha for sale ? T), failing Rider (a debenture T) I'd manage something wherewith to appease Clay (a printer T). But Clay appeased which Hydra head will next appear? The valorous F.P. (Cowie T) can't go on indefinitely. If I get the 50, 30 may stop the mouth of Clay for some time and a judicious sop of £10 apiece may prevent others giving trouble. But how many others and what's the dem total of the dem bills? There's always some dem thing turning up besides, and there's the dem interest on £900 (mortgage on Boleskine T) to keep in mind, it will be May II soon enough. And I've my own increased dem tax coming on soon. A dem Paxful life indeed! Chiefly due to that dem female Hun, Baroness Cremers? Has anything ever been heard of her?

Well, there's one thing to the good. Thanks to that stray hint in your letter, it seems to have dawned on me why you are doing a Link in the West and who the Rich Man is that will come from thence. May be a longish job though. I never doubted but that you knew the ^{the} tone, but had to assume that there was some A.A. etiquette by which you couldnt use it to make tin. Besides you told me (presumably in reply to indiscreet questions) that it couldnt be made for lack of sufficient IX degree people. If I have inferred correctly, then it strikes me there is something inexpressibly comic about the solemn way in which I bequeathed my house etc to the poor unfortunate O.T.O.-the possessots of the Stone! I imagine you are working towards the red powder but that there is almost bound to be, there are hitches. Well, when the destined success comes it will be easy enough to redeem the great Gawd Budd and do forth and establish the Order in due dignity and splendour-and do lots of other splendid things.

I've got that 'Hermetic Museum'. It seemed a bit of extravagance at the time, but I'd go without a new suit to get it. Its as handy having all these writers together and able to try and get out of one what the other does not give. But it will take many weeks to get it all coherent, and both word of mouth and experiment are necessary supplements. So far it seems to me that the union of the two substances (which are one substance) is performed in an exalted way, perhaps as outlined in your E(nergised) E(nthusias)m, and in a way that enables one to enter the translucid, so to speak, and behold things for oneself. Naturally I want to experiment....

(Remainder of letter missing.T)

56

Undated. 1915 ?.

Care Frater.

I am afraid I perpetrated an unconscious practical joke on you last letter; at least I found 2 stamps I couldnt account for on my return from my expedition to the pillar. It seemed worth while to send you a cheap cable to say M.O.H. was sailing, it would give you that certainty a few days earlier than by post.

I am trying to get Gardner to find that Arabic affair (Smaragdine Tablet.T) The obvious thing was for you to ask one or other of the London crowd to stroll over to the British Museum and interview the keeper of the M.S.S. Geber and the Moorish alchemists would give the clue. I am almost writing direct, uncertain whether it is a piece of cheek though, or a legitimate request, I cant spare a guinea to an expert to hunt it up. Well see just what Gardner says. Time is my difficulty and no British Museum has

Never mind, the Arabic may only turn out to be a receipt for Mother Leigel's Soothsome Syrup.

I feel a bit rotten as I cant shake off quite the sequelae of a cold, and even get a fluey sort of twinge occasionally as if P(erdurabo) had made a little wax image of me and was sticking pins into it, but didnt know the essential factor. This is suggested by a funny drawing in Punch this week, black necromancers at work for the - no we are having a rest this time, anyway they are sticking pins into a wax John Bull, and one gentleman is studying a collection of the 100 Best Curses. Hope your cheered up by the prospect of M.O.H. coming and that you've got the dam £600.

Fraternally. F.P.

Jan 25. ? 1915.

Care Frater.

My last letter must have failed to cheer you up. For one thing I was quite certain you'd have the £600 by the time you got my letter and therefore we were well enough cheered up. Next I wasn't pleased with you. Think of that and shudder. The fear of the (note, drawing of a camel a serpent and a camel. T) is the beginning of Wisdom. Who says there's nothing in the Qabalah? H N (in Hebrew. T)-Hum = Thief. Robber Loot. Brigand. So there you are. Remember that.

I got ~~your~~ letter on Sat 23rd, the other today Mon 25th. I looked up the American sailings. I thought it might be cheaper if Mater went by Glasgow. But no actually a little dearer counting the rail fare, and only a day longer. The old State line with slow boats of hoff. So I've written to her today to advise her to go by the Orduna (? T) on Saturday (Cunarder) see second cabin and rail from London will be £12. I won't have any cash till that same day. But the matter is desperate enough to make breaking into my last line of defence legitimate, it's almost to save one of us from starvation. Of course she could have come here for a bit, but it's much better for her to be with you. So I've told her to wire me tomorrow if she can be ready to sail on Saturday. Then I'll square the bank, book her berth and send her some cash to make matters easy. We'll just consider that the money comes out of the Boleskine rent and that I'm going to face the lawyers bill etc myself later. It's a risk of course, as I might find myself landed at any moment (out o' work) but for the present there seems no actual danger, and it may chance that if I do get on the rocks, you may by then be in a position to come to the rescue, so well chance it.

Poor mater had evidently had to pay dear for her whistle and you've evidently been more worried than you let on, poor man. It doesn't seem fair. But I suppose the game has to be played.

I hope you'll be able to satisfy Clay to some extent. Don't bother about me at present. I have no personal debts. am clear of taxes for a little, and only I can't economise much in housekeeping nor find enough for ...
(one or more pages missing. T)

APPENDIX IT IS.

Haven't heard from M.O.H. for a few days, so I don't know whether it's N.Y. for her or not as yet. Events have shown the wisdom of having a small last line. I've called but half of him to pay the fare to N.Y. and provide M(other) with pocket money. If I knew for certain she wasn't going I might let you have a few pounds, the trouble is that it would probably reach you when you were wallowing in dollars and I might cripple myself for no good.

The last line is only for a real emergency. Apart from that I will only have some £8 left this month. My pay was partly anticipated and expenses postponed that have now to be made good. I could keep M.O.H. going, out of that, allowing £1-1- for my book and 30/ for Hammond and 20/ for a pair of breeks. In two months there will be another quarter due from Boleskine and there should be some left this time after clearing the studio rent. Accounts for repairs may not come on till June. Oh goodness I wish Jupiter would come on. It is a perpetual worry having so little ahead of me one and uncertainty about the immediate future. I mean that if thrown idle I wouldn't have the calm of mind to make the otherwise good use of leisure.

Med(itation) has not gone so well of late, I've been practically unwell all Jan: and a cough is no help to med: Still when things are favourable I get near the stage of being able to hold the mind blank and still. It's a

strain however and liable to sudden breakdown.

Some gloomy news just now. "Hag a hell the world seems just now, life a horror, insane. Lets get OUT. Cheer up! however, as I say to Mater. Vale Frater, trying to post this to catch the mail

Undated. 1915? (First page or pages missing, T)

easy mind about beans. They are not playing the game, Them. But it may be the last trial in that direction.

There has been a letter from Mills Lockyer asking if we would give Mrs Brook an option of extending the lease (of Boleskine, T) when it was out. Presumably she has heard that Mrs Murray Leslie has a hankering after the place, so--- I told Williamson to reply to the effect that I did not for a moment think we could agree at this date to bind ourselves to anything definite, as circumstances might arise at any moment which might make us keen to occupy the place ourselves on the termination of the lease, but that if not so, then we should feel bound in the circumstances, to give her the first option, and should not feel entitled to pass her over for a better offer. That is right, and should satisfy her, but make her still more keen to remain. B(oleskine) should be a peaceful place at present..

Blessed thrice blessed be The All Bounderest, the Kether Prince. At the rate at which he is sacrificing his wretched pawns, 'parsifal' will be an operatic failure. Good. Aren't you glad? I'm reading through the "Commentary M.S" till you send for it, I know you'll like me to. It would come in for the next 'Equinox', tho' there should be plenty without it. If They expect you to print the next Eq. on credit, I'm a-goin' to choose me a dissolute Island and fortify it.

Haven't heard from our very Excellent and Perfect Princess (this is no sarcasm) for a bit. Hammond seems to have got a move on at last, and I'm financing the miscreant who is mishandling the plates. The difficulty is about proofs and further copy (for letter press) but you'd better let it slide now, till you come out of retirement. I'll write occasionally but not bother you. Will be glad to hear from M.O.H.

I caught a devil of a cold in London (it rather spoilt my week) It clung to me in the normal suggestive way for weeks, but I think I have now conquered it. I've been very busy, my work does not get done in my absence, so I've had to pay for that holiday.

Three months in peace and a borrowed cottage. Lucky man. All good wishes

Fraternally F.P.

P.S. This is F.P. his fifty fifth birthday. No flowers.

Feb 14. 1916?

C.F.

ask

After sealing up letter it occurs to me to ask you to say what exactly was the trouble with Mary ~~Diea~~ D'Easte Sturges and if you advise giving her a share in the work as e.g. to try to form a new Lodge. I remember you made some evasive reply to a? about her and I'd rather know just how the land lies.

By the way don't think I'm regretting the last two years. Even if the worst came, its no odds, good Karma but I'm hardly able to face with equanimity another such year, and the Equinox coming on to boot. One can't tell how long the Funeral obsequies may be delayed.

Geo M Cowie.

25 Feb 16.
Care Frater

60

Do as thou wilt is the whole of the Law.

I was very glad to have your letter (of the 10th) this morning. (You see it takes 15 days to come.) I daresay you will feel that this was the sort of letter I've long wanted. The tone is so much more worthy of you and of the things you really have been doing, and heartens me up. I could only infer something of what you have been doing and suffering, and if the suffering has been great, so doubtless the Reward will be. My feeble efforts at cheering you up were probably comic.

Things are still pretty depressing financially and otherwise, but a letter like that and the 'Pastoral' gives one more heart, and firmer confidence, as a glimpse of the dawn might do. When you've got through and lived to write the story, things will be splendid, surely, and the darkest period over, even if no dollars come along - (I scored out the 'damn' as a relapse into a lower key!)

Re the Message

As your copy was quite clear, I judged it best simply to go ahead and print. It was set with the greatest care and I judged that if you found any error it wouldn't be serious and could be corrected by hand, before sending out the sheets, and then corrected on the 'plates' for reprints. I should have felt as if doing nothing, had I waited for approval for everything, it means so much delay. As it is I've got something done bit by bit and it's been a very good thing getting in touch with someone in London, really keen and anxious to help, like Mrs Davies.

I'm worried though that in other cases my letters have produced no effect. I'm wondering if the lack of response and interest is due to any peremptoriness of tone or lack of tact on my part, or if it is simply fear of having to pay up. The 'pastoral' is just what I felt was wanted. It will re-assure, it explains the reasons for the present position - it will balance waverer's (and it makes no mention of £.s.d.)

I'd like to send it out now, but you've dated it for the Eq: an appropriate time. I'd get Hobbs to type it, as not really many copies are wanted, my list is so small, but I'd have to fill in the Greek, after, which means trouble with parcels - so I'll manage it here. You'll already have got your parcel of 50 Messages. I daresay they will be useful, and the stereo mats.

Two of the usual worries cropped up simultaneously with your letter this morning. (1) Hobbs was wrong - Ballantyne's appear to hold the stock of your Poems still, and the only way to rescue them is to settle the account, about £20. This again will wipe out my next months balance and dip well into the emergency fund. Can't be helped.

(2) Boleskine. I enclose W and W's letter in case in your stock of useful knowledge you know anything about peat cutting. I have no doubt, not quite understanding, helped to give you hell about financial matters the last few months. You know, all right, there was no malice behind it, and I felt it plain duty to let you see how the illusion appeared. A letter like today's would have saved me some worry you knew, and have made it easier to 'carry on' in face of absence of funds. The difficulty is to understand why you are expected to fulfil your mission with such tiresome difficulties to contend with.

I've groused and will go on grousing, I daresay, till the end of the chapter, but it's only grousing.

D and L have sent an acknowledgement of your letter which I sent on, and no comments. No further word from Mrs Davies, as yet, when I reply I'll get

Dunns

Mr D(avies) to try and stir up Hammond again and find out what the actual state of affairs is) Its too bad of him really-Been writing in my lunch time and times nearly up, and I must step out for a cigarette. I am smoking perniciously now-and baccy is up, like everything else-There is a shortage of paper coming along, that will affect the printing trade greatly. I wish somebody would wipe out that Sect-not on account of the above though%.

Your letter and the Pastoral should have had a reply in proper ceremonial form, but that I'm writing under difficulties and pressure of time. All considered, this letter quitte ~~is~~ a decent performance however. Glad M.O.H. is all right. Wish she'd write, I feel as if we weren't friends, and I don't mean it.

Consider this letter signed in proper and dutiful form and with love
F.P.

Feb 29. 1916.
Care Frater.

61

left

Just the usual scribble before mail time. Formal letter written yesterday enclosed. No letter this morning from you and I was rather expecting a slating. It suddenly dawned on me that I should not have ~~out~~ Do what thou wilt etc in ~~case-on-the-Message~~ cap(ital)s on the Message. I had it little caps all right on the first proof but it struck me somehow that it would look more imposing and effective in cap(ital)s: and that it was not a question of the original M.S., it was permissible. I dunno however, and its worried me. I can 'scrap' the stock not sent out, and get back what's possible, if you think it really matters. It did not occur, in a clear way, at first that it was an historical document I had the first sending out of, and I wished I had waited for you to pass a proof definitely. Shall be relieved if in this case it doesn't greatly matter. However, the stereo is easily alterable for the next edition.

I've sent Hobbs enough to meet B and H's claims. As I had to break into capital in any case, I am able ~~to~~ to enclose £5 in advance of next quarters rent-when I can repay myself, I will try to send you £5 at least each month regularly. The trouble with the next quarter is as usual the interest on the £900-due six weeks after.

I may have something interesting to tell you in the way of alchemy soon, at present it is not definite enough and I might have to let it drop.

I'm writing just to catch the mail. I'm ever so busy in every way. No further news from London. I'm waiting to hear from M(ary) D(avies) and then I'll try and stir up Hammond again. Your last letter enlightened me a good deal as to what had really been happening to you in America and as to why you were sent there. It will be fine to read your record, one day. Of course you'll come through all right. Ever fraternally. F.P.

7 March 1916 (?)
Care Frater

62

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law.

Just time for a few notes. The enclosure from M(ary) D(avies) should interest you. I don't know anything about Wedgewood, but I suppose he's the man you mentioned as having been used as Mrs Besants tool, to try and get control of FreeMasonry. Now that wooden headed pawn is a block head of a Bishop?

I don't know about the Regent Street idea, unless someone can ~~say~~

guarantee the rent. I'm afraid to take more on, after all, the sticks have remained safe where they are-and I doubt if the two or three brethren she mentions would justify extra expenditure. It requires consideration.

There is a regrettable absence of response still. The only fresh reply is from an illiterate III degree, Arthur Olney, who sends £1 to 'defy' (sic. Good Word) expenses. He thinks the 'Message' very 'ful of logic' but flatly refuses to hand copies round. I suppose the 'Pastoral' will have a good effect and make 'em less shy.

Report from Boleskine, through W and W, that rain has got in and damaged the tenants paper etc. We liable! But this is from Frasers. W and W sent down the other man and he says the rooms affected are on the ground floor and the felted roof is sound. Two feet of snow at Boleskine just now.

No letter from you since the 25th tho' I may find one this evening. There's a stupid letter of Horton's in the Occult Review this month. (Herewith) I am trying to concoct a reply, with the view of getting into touch with Shirley. I am informing him that he is quite free to comment on or quote from the 'Message' in the Review. If we had money it would be quite good to pay for it as an inset. Haven't another minute, these notes dispose of a few matters meantime. All good wishes. Fraternally. F.P.

14 Mar. 1916 ?.

Decet

63

Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law.

Last week you had only half of an unfinished letter. Warned by experience not to put everything off till the last moment, as is my charming wont, I've done in instalments and scraps the disjointed affair herewith and got several matters off my mind. Don't be alarmed though, nothing fresh.

Had yours today (13th) Sorry to hear you are so overdriven. That remark about the oath is pregnant with suggestion of the staggering nature of the Ordeal you are going through. I'm worrying you just as little as I can help, and keeping my own end up as well as can be expected in a time like the present. Greeting and be of good cheer. Fraternally ever. F.P.

10 Mar.

64

W Steff Langston V degree (O.T.O.) is a capital fellow. I have heard from him twice lately and he is an all-righter. He states that the copies of the Message he has given away seem to impress people greatly. He appears to know many Masons, having been one himself, and that helps. He has three young people he wants brought in. I hope to see him when in London if he can come up. He is at present applying for an organist's place in Johannesburg, and would be a valuable recruit for Windram. By the way I had no time to mention that when he paid (like a brick) his subscription, I in my gratitude unwarantly promised he'd have the post of Chief Musician of the Temple, one day. He says he's composing music to one of your poems and wants to write to you about it, so I said I'd send on the letter.

I've just written to Hammond to try and wring a reply out of him. If I don't hear by Tuesday, when I write to you, I think you might write direct to him to try to stir him up.

12 Mar.

65

Sunday is a day I have to sacrifice to some of my neglected private correspondence and so forth. Today I'm 'sacrificing' the whole of it, getting parcels made up and the pastoral letters addressed ready for the Equinox, as that can't be done in an odd half hour. I hope for a better result from this

letter as it is what is wanted, and to those who have not replied to my first letter, I am enclosing a duplicate of the Message with a clear note added on making clear what their duty is in the matter. I have only the imperfect list of addresses I had at the outset and have been unable to get any fresh light from Mrs Davies. I am putting a note on the envelopes of where to return them if undelivered. In that way I'll be more certain that they have really reached their destination, tho' of the last lot only one came back 'not found'.

I have just written to the O(uter) H(ead) of the O(rder). Theodor Reuss. T) in the exact terms you give, save an additional note that I'm sending him 100 copies at your request, as also the letter.

Windram (X degree O.T.O. for South Africa. T) I will write to in time for the S African mail, as I havent the stereo mats at hand to enclose in his parcel.

Jones (in Vancouver. X degree for North America. T) it will be a simple matter for you to post the set of mats I sent over, assuming they are correct. My dwindling resources wont allow me to print for the other Lodges, even if they pay and my time has limits, packing and so forth.

I am very anxious to hear from you if the printed Message is O.K. before I send Windram his instructions or any large quantities out. The parcel for the O.H.O. (Reuss. T) and one of 100 for yourself are ready to post but I think it wise to wait your next letter which may come on Tuesday. However I'll send yours, and if not approved you can 'scrap' em. I'll need to order another 1000, but will wait definite approval. I've got through a fair quantity personally and enclose one whenever I write to anyone. The trouble is I never cared to mix in Theosophic or Masonic circles, so except such as De Thoren or Wilson, here, who had distributed some for me amongst people with an interest in 'occultism', I havent many friends I can expect a response from. However the point is just to scatter it. I've tried to get Wilson to come in, as he could help me, but hes a stickler for what he calls his 'liberty' - However Hell see yet where liberty lies.

It seems only yesterday a few days ago that I shelled out £13 for stereo storage charges. Already an account has come in for another quarter, £9 odds - 25/- is the charge for sending two cases over to you last year, so you'll see, as I said, that even small parcels represent a serious item of expense for me. If you made anything out of the books sent, however, its all right. I find I'm paying enough in storage charges to pay the rent of a good sized house in Edinburgh - If I'd understood what was really coming, I'd have taken a house, certainly, in the name of the O.T.O. and I'm rather inclined for the Regent Street idea, if only the London people will help. It would feel ever so much safer too. I do not regard the present arrangement as safe, and that's why I wouldn't risk serious trouble for the sake of keeping 30 bob in my pocket.

We are evidently at cross purposes. What I've almost stripped myself to avert, seems the very thing, for some inscrutable reason, you are 'asking for'. I was at first very much hurt at the tone of your remarks about the telephone business - for all the world as if I'd embezzled 30 bob to pay a useless a/c. Its me might be furious! at the carelessness that allowed the useless expense to run on and it isn't safe at present having friction with the Government expense collecting departments. Its damn bad form not to be ready to pay up, and I decline to apologise for this item. I'm a patriot.

However I'm taking it in good part, but its been a mistake opening letters, as these dunning letters move me as much as if they were for myself and get on my nerves. I think I'll send them unopened, its cheaper in the end to pay the extra postal weight. Here's a dreadful confession. One poor creature of a lady typist who hadn't been paid since June 1914, I got rid of her

pitiful account which I was sick of, by 'embezzling' 25 bob, poor devil. Like wise with another small claim. I expect to hear you wanted a strait waistcoat on hearing that I had rescued your poems from B and H at the expense of the remnant of my capital. But you asked me, remember. I want them to keep the stock till I go up to London. I think I'll do so end of April.

I wish you'd let me know if money sent over in £₁ B(ank) of E(ngland) notes is all right and negotiable? It saves the time it takes getting Bank Drafts. I may enclose another with this, as the rent will be coming along end of this month.

If I rub in so much aboutt expenses, its to make it perfectly clear that all these extras dont come out of the Boleskine money. If they did, there would be dam little left to send across. M.O.H. did not realise this. I'll send you if possible all next quarters, only I cant be sure of being able to meet the mortgage interest, and its no good ? me not to pay that, as it exposes us to foreclosure, unless the lender is an easy going chap, which I'm not aware of. I must keep back £16 till May, and if I find I can manage it out of income, I'll pay it myself, and let you have the balance as perhaps things are harder for you than I thought.

14th.

Yours came this morning. It does not contain the confirmation wanted of the printed Messages, but as you must have had the full proof and possibly the packet of 50, I take Silence as consent. However I'll hold over Windram's and further reprints until I'm quite certain.

I couldnt have thought when the war broke out that at this time I should be busier than ever. Thats happened through the firm's having taken over another firm's whole business, and the partners, so its like working for 2 firms. And I may be deprived of my assistant, if hes called up (I'm not standing in his way) and find myself doing everything. Theres another shuffling of the cards and one of these re-arrangements I always dread, and that I should have been comfortably beyond the reach of in May next, but for the War and other things.

I've got the Pip this last week or two and med(itation) is less of a refuge than usual and less promising. However lets be thankful that I still have an income at least, if accompanied by servitude, and that Boleskine is well let. Only I'm not doing anything to help my country and that would give me more Pip if I did not feel that on the other hand I am doing a little bit to help the World of the future.

But I wish you had kept ~~out~~ of the McCarthy brand of religion. How the devil that will help to push the New Law, beats my bloodthirsty brain, till in due time all is explained, but not, N.B. forgotten! At the back of my mind there is always the feeling- what if this person (to whom I send the Message) asks "Is this the same A.C. who was once a Plymouth Brother?" or words to that effect. It damps enthusiasm. The P(lymouth) B(rethren) by the way are playing a large part in the War-as conscientious objectors-Dear J(esus) doesn't like them to fight.

There was once a pernicious race who under the monstrous boast that they were the chosen people (a proof of the bad taste of the supposed deity) thought it then their duty to make the world hell for all but themselves and to prevent any other people doing what they willed. History repeats itself. The mistake last time was that their conquerors were unpardonably lenient.

So we get this. And example and divine approval quoted for it.

Its fine though to feel that the lies and forgeries of the blackguard Jew.) (P.) (not the 8 = 3 man) who subverted the original Xtianity (and

A.C. to Reuss

produced in course of time the Plymouth Brother) will be swept away and the world grown grey from his breath turn to rose and gold .AM- AMB.

Goodbye for tonight, if these scamps end anyhow and anywhere its becos I shan't have had time on mail day to add anything.

There wasn't, Vale, Frater.

[from A.C.]

Copy of Letter (in due official form) (Note. To Theodore Reuss. Outer Head of the Order of O.T.O. T) 66

Do etc.

Greetings and fraternal salutations. I feel bound to acknowledge the receipt of the interesting announcement you send me, in which I recognise the beginning of the period when Our Leaders summoning their forces shall announce to the Kings and Princes of the Earth the Knowledge of the fact of Universal Brotherhood and all the nations shall dwell together in peace and unity. In this we are one.

You will recognise that in this time of war there is a certain delicacy in communicating from here with B(rethren) abroad, even in neutral nations. This has greatly hampered me hitherto, for fear of motives being misapprehended to the detriment of B(rethren) here.

This difficulty is now removed, I am writing in the certainty that this letter will be seen by the authorities here, and that they know my character and sense of honour to think that I am doing anything which I should not wish to be known.

I shall be in London in the early part of April. Whilst there I shall arrange for a supply of our pamphlets to be sent you through one of the accredited booksellers. These pamphlets have been seen by the authorities who are aware that there is no thing of a political nature in the literature. I take this indirect means of informing them of my intention of doing and giving my word of honour that nothing will be added beyond publications of the pre-war period and of an occult nature, and this only if specially requested and paid for by you.

By a total misunderstanding I was under the impression that the matter had been carried out by someone else by the G(rand)M(aster)'s own instructions months ago, or that you were otherwise supplied. It is just as well that it can now be done without fear of misapprehension.

A supply of the pamphlets will be very useful at your proposed Congress I can send you a fair quantity but should be glad of you would print for yourselves any further quantities needed. The proposed Congress raises questions only of ethics and religion. I shall certainly endeavour to send delegates that the interests of our country may be represented. This if the intention is known to the authorities and we receive permission, I shall submit the circular to the Lodge officers for opinion. I shall of course be guided by the G(rand) M(aster)'s instructions also.

We have only very few male members in London as is inevitable in these times, and are endeavouring to do our share in the evolution of a new social order on the lines of the Manifesto and have established really a small Utopia which promises to grow into a great and dignified thing.

With yourself, brother, I have not previously had the pleasure of communicating, and it seems to open a way for interchange of news. I may mention that I can read French, though I cannot trust myself to write it, but your name has an English sound.

Please show this letter to your Chief (Reuss. T) and convey to him my salutations. He will now understand what my difficulty has been. Fraternal greetings to all, for Love is the law, love under will.

G.M.C

(I added a very strict note about the necessity for care in quotations from our Holy Books, and will send corrected copies of everything.)

17 Mar. 1916 ?
Care Frater.

67

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.
Ive at last heard from Hammond. I enclose the letter so that youll see just how things stand. What puzzles me is why he wont send proofs of what he has done already cut, to be forwarded to you. He said some time ago that he needed a press that would cost £30. I wasnt taking that on. The book he wants is I suppose Payne Knight's Priapus? He might have asked for it sooner. Ill ask Hobbs to try and get hold of it next time she goes. I am going to fall in with his idea about a house. I think ~~it is just~~ what is wanted. If we can get a house for about £30 or 35 Id agree. *Achad*

Ive also heard from Stansfield Jones. He wants more aprons! But as this time he sends a precise description and I have the stuffs by me, its less trouble. I will enclose 50 'Messages' as its all one job, but they must really print their own supplies, no matter tho' they haven't got a ha'penny amongst them as ~~she~~ hints re other matters. *Achad Amen in dodge in the golden Dawn*

Grand, if we can seal the Buddha etc: Ill do my best to be diplomatic and a Jew, tho' neither is my strong suit. Its interesting about the D's Mistress, tho' I dont catch on exactly who you are referring to. Ive been intending to write to Brodie Innes, not that I know him, he ought to be with us, and the 'Message' may be a means. Same with Ralph Shirley. I havent sent that letter as I couldn't get it to my satisfaction, for want of time. but that was only an excuse for trying to get into touch with him.

Your letter of the 2nd came this morning-it was curious that it answered queries to things I had almost forgotten about (the Buddha etc) so long past they seem, and only January 25. Glad you dont slate the circular-I was doubtful, being staggered at the lack of response. But next week (Eq.) may see a difference. I have the letters about ready to send out as soon as Sol enters Aries.

This scribble in my lunch hour is all Ive time for, but Ive touched, I think all the points needed at present. No further word from Mary (Davies). I want to know if you got these £5 notes, 3, one after another, as its a bit risky, Im afraid, when letters are liable to be opened. None in this one! But

Fraternally. F.P.

21 Mar. ? 1916
Care Frater.

68

This is a p.s. I think that the mail is later and that youll get this along with the other letter and enclosures. The mails are most confusing and its evident that my letters have been delayed, or posted too late at times.. F.P.

3 Apr 1916.

69

Miss Hobbs to Cowie from 88 Albion Road, Stoke Newington.
Dear Mr Cowie.

Ive been trying to write ever so many times, but have been extra full engaged just lately and also Ive been trying to locate the things Mr C (rowley) wants, and seeing after various 'missions'. I will send off as many of the things to Mr C as are get-at-able, but cannot find any of the Mortadello in the lists, so am afraid they are either hidden away in some box or case that went bodily, without being specially packed at the last, or

else there are none. He must remember that he had a number of the most wanted books sent him before Miss Waddell left, and whether all the Mortadellos went I cannot say. There appears to be only one Winged Beetle - shall I send this last one?

I've found the boots and the clothes, and there are Book 4 so he'll not be disappointed in those things, and I will send them off directly I can spare the time to get over there again. I've also hunted for Sutton's list, but so far without success. I think I had better write and ask them to send a list of what they hold. I called ~~one day~~ one day on Clarke about the Buddha etc, but he was out, and am going again this week. I have sent the 2 Equinoxes to the O.W. and also the Goetia to Mr Richmond, with the account as you said, but so far he has not acknowledged it - I suppose he had it all right however.

I am also keeping my eyes open for a small house and will let you know if I come across anything possible. I suppose if we shared a place with Mr Hammond it would be absolutely distinct and I should be able to get access to it without depending on them at all? There is one thing as regards locality - I hope it would not be anywhere further north or east that I am here, because it would make it too difficult for me to manage in between my other work which is City-ways or West-wise; it would be difficult for me to get out in that direction and back again. I will hope to come across something: it certainly would be far better than having them all tied up as they are at the Depository. If you saw the piles you would realise what a frightful business it is to pick out something in an unknown spot, for necessarily they must keep shifting the things to make room for other 'lots', and if I could have them all arranged nicely on shelves or something of that sort which are interfered with by no one else, it would be a 'joy for ever'.

Did you have any replies after sending out the Pastoral letter? You will soon be up in London now, after Easter I think you said. It would be nice if I could come across some sort of a house by then... More Zeppelins last night. I heard ten bombs exploding in the far distance. But soon there'll be a Moon. Goodbye for the present, from yours sincerely

Dear Hobbs.

---- 70

4 Apr 16. Extract from Miss Hobbs to Cowie.

I was wondering about the large Ivory Cross stored away with the things. Perhaps Clarke could have that too? ... I am just off to see him again and to try and negotiate for the Buddha. What a dear little picture blot you made! I think you are wonderful: you seem to be an Adept at most things

The following is the list of goods held by Sutton (pawnbroker) against a loan of £15.

Plated tea urn, Silver tea pot, do milk jug, do sugar basin, do cigar box. 2 pairs plated candle sticks, Gold seal Crucifix: 3 bottle spirit cabinet: Kodak camera; Pair top boots. All in large kit bag.
Loan is dated 8/5/15 and interest due 8/4/16 was £2-1-3.

6 Apr 16. Miss Hobbs to Cowie.

Dear Mr Cowie.

71

I enclose Sutton's account of the goods being held by him. I believe I have already explained to him that we cannot supply the old deposit note. I believe that must be among Mr Crowley's papers somewhere or else he has it with him in America.

Mr Clarke says he could not offer more than £25 for 'the Quannion' (? Kwan-Yin) Ivory. He says he has one now in better condition than Mr Crowley's which he would dispose of for £30. ~~He was rather staggered~~

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100 suggestion, and his opinion was that no one would give that in England. There is no very good report as regards the Buddha either. The gentleman (an American) who was interested in it has now returned to America, so that is 'off' for the time being. What about the small 'ivory Buddha'? Mr Clarke does not appear to have it. Is it in the stock at the Depository? While I was there I thought I might as well ask as to the value of the large Crucifix which was in the Studio. Do you remember it? He said, however, the best thing to do with it would be to put it into a Christie's sale if you wanted to dispose of it.

...I will see about the packing and sending off A.C.'s things-truly a wicked grandmotherly act!!

Goodbye for the time- Dear Hobbs.

3 Apr 16. Cowie to A.C.

72

Care Frater.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

I have been too busy, lazy to write sooner. To dispose of some items first- The 'pastoral' was duly sent out to everyone whose address I have or could get: at the Equinox. In each case I enclosed a duplicate copy of the 'Message' with a note as to duty about it. So far, April 3, save from the good Mary (Davies), I have not had a solitary reply, or request for copies. As a matter of fact it is those outside the Order who seem most willing, e.g. De Thoren and Wilson and Hobbs. To each of these I sent a copy of the 'Pastoral' stating that though they were not entitled to it, I felt that their interest in you (Wilson's especially) warranted me in letting them see it. I regard these men as practically candidates, Wilson, de Thoren and Richmond. The latter at first refused to take copies of the Message but on my admonition that the Service was as much part of the G(reat) W(ork) as anything he has sent for 50.

I have now under 100 copies left of the 1000. I will order a reprint shortly and will have the heading re-set in l.c. The caps. in the first lot, followed your own M.S. copy, tho' I felt I was wrong, and that the M.S. style was possibly only a typist's variation- Still it in no-wise alters the sense.

I sent off 100 to Windram, asking him to send 50 to the Australian Lodge (under Bennet. T) with his own instructions, I had enclosed mats: but was in time to follow up with another letter by same mail to tell him to have the formula re-set in l.c. Jones, I think I told you I sent 50 to, and rely on you to send him mats:

I enclose a letter from Mrs (Mary) Davies of 22 ult: The latest I've mislaid pro tem, but its settled that I go up to London on the 22 April for a week or so. She states that Hammond had not succeeded in finding a house. (Job's patience had not a perfect test, he had no Hammond) and that she does not think we can do better than take the Regent Str place. As I can't put off things till the Greek Kalends I've given her carte blanche to take the rooms. With luck I may get the things shifted whilst I am there. If not I must make the best arrangements I can and leave the rest to the others.

I hope to meet De Thoren and Staff Langston and another man who I think would come in.

(possibly the remainder is part of another letter. T-)

I was at first greatly puzzled by your reference to 'Valentines' (more typists freaks?) I haven't got the sheets of the 'Poems' yet-they say there is so much to clear out and of course cartage is difficult just now. I've written to see if the Giants Thumb can be traced. B and H don't exist, everything is being arranged by the liquidators. My impression is that B and H

* 76 survived and the only copy is at the Warburg Institute
929

refused delivery till the other sheets were paid for. As this has now been done there should be no difficulty, and they will be only too glad to dump the stock here - you haven't sent Kennedy's address.

As to other matters the letter I enclose from 'Dear Hobbs' (I call her s for short) will put you wise. Note how little I have exaggerated the difficulty of getting at things. I put my address, 'Return to -- if not delivered' on all envelopes with the Pastoral. So far, Apr 4, only one has come back - Donovan - 'not known'

Apr 6. Yours of the 22nd to hand yesterday. I had already written to Shirley. He hasn't so far had the grace to reply, if he does not I will try to recover your MS. Hobbs will probably have sent off your things by this mail. Good word - SOL-OM-ON. Must. Fraternally. F.P.
Boleskine cheque not to hand yet - will be able to remit something next week.

To Apr 1916. of the Equinox -----
73
Care Frater.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

There seems to be an American mail this p.m., earlier than usual in the week, so I take the chance to send you a draft as the Boleskine cheque is now in. I've sent you £15 in advance in notes, this makes £25, and I'll let you have more shortly. I am going to London end of next week, and it will take something to clear off the storage charges before the things can be shifted. If I can manage to pay the mortgage interest next month, I'll let you have the whole balance, almost, but I'm not sure, till after London. You might say what you think about the affairs mentioned in Hobbs's letters. Is it worth while going on paying interest on these small things with Sutton? Just going out to post this. It's lunch time, So Fraternally. F.P.

7,8 May 1916
Care Frater.

74

I've been in London 10 days and am not long back. I wasn't able to write to catch the American mail last week, and am doing it at leisure now. I am back and seem to have got past, possibly Death's door. I caught a wretched cold and wasn't able to grapple with it as I can at home, and neglect made the results a bit alarming. There are cleaner ways of dying than by lung disease. However I've been able to tackle it properly since Wed: p.m. and I have now scotched it I think.

I saw Hammond and got him to write to you personally. I can do no more and have done my best to drive into him that the important thing is to have the metal plates completed. I take it that is the important thing, rather than perishable paper copies. (Note. This was to have been Liber C or Agape, IX Degree O.T.O. Hammond apparently never finished the plates. In 1950 I enquired if the plates had survived, but his family who carry on the business stated that they knew nothing of them. G.J.Y) If you wait till he gets a press and all the etceteras, nothing will ever materialise I'm afraid. I could not understand about the engraver. He got his £30 duly, and I understood there were only a few trifles to complete, which I wasn't able to pay for at the time, but which might have been done and paid for after. H(Hammond) now states that he needs £25, making £55 in all instead of £30 and that this is because you ordered additional plates not stipulated for at first. I knew nothing of this. As the thing must be done, now or never, I've agreed to find £3 a week somehow for some time and I understand Hammond was to set the man to work at once.

H(Hammond) does not want to send you proofs of the letter press

till he hears from you-for obvious reasons. There may be a similar difficulty in sending fresh copy. Its a peculiar position. I cannot of course look at the proofs myself (Note. He was not yet IX Degree O.T.O. T) bar the illustrations.

I did not get anything fixed up about Lodge rooms. The rooms above Mary's (Davies) would leave really no room to move about, and heaven knows what it would cost to crane up all the heavy stuff to a top flat in Regent Street. The big things, mirrors etc could hardly be got in at all. You remember what a narrow stair it is? The point is that if I only removed part of the stuff, I should still have to go on paying storage too, and that isn't business even if I had money to play with. None of them had found another place worth looking at, tho' it was plainly for Hammond's own interest to do so. I went with Hobbs to the Depository to see how we stood there. I found that all the things are stacked on top of each other in a very limited space and so covered in that everything is totally inaccessible without huge labour. This is not according to the understanding and is the result of the jam on the London depositaries by the huge amount of stuff stored away on account of the War. The wonder is that Hobbs managed to get anything for us. She's certainly a capable person. But it costs about a pound a day for labour to get at anything. I am satisfied however that the things are as safe as they could be anywhere, and I always thought, at the outset, that you'd be back in a year.

At the eleventh hour Hobbs found a house in Theobalds Road, that I rather fancied, not a good locality for our purpose. but the house has features that make it seem very safe and unusually secluded. The rent seemed very big for such a place, £52 (it would be dear at £35 in Edinburgh) but I decided to offer £40 for it and did so. Just as I was leaving London the landlord wrote stating £50 was their limit. I can't make up my mind, as there is little hope that the London people would contribute enough even for running expenses, and I've that £3 a week to Hammond hanging over me and Lord knows what else. I think it as well to let it slide pro tem, I may go up to London again in August, and knowing better how the land lies may be able to come to some decision. You should tell me whether in your opinion, it is worth while shifting the stuff.

I'm not just very well at the moment, and perhaps I may decide next week to take the Theobalds Rd place of still available. It would at least give us a locus standi and the good Mary (Davies) has quite a lot of promising ~~team~~ Can(didate)s the sort I think who really mean it and would stick to the thing. There is a capital fellow called Best, whom I thought highly of- At Mrs D(avies?)'s afternoon reception there appeared a person in immaculate evening dress (with which he didn't appear to harmonise) and who was introduced with great impressment as an initiate of Papus's lodge and who seemed to think very highly of himself. He is the image of a German Jew I once came into contact with and loathed, and this may involuntarily have prejudiced me against him. He has obviously more leisure than is good for him, and I could have made use of him, but for the feeling that he is a person to be cautious with, much too fond of pushing himself in, and of saying patronising things. It was a little before it dawned on me that he is the identical missionary de Wolfe who wrote you about the Qabalah. I think there are honester ways of getting a living than by trying to convert Jews and he admits he has never met a genuine case. I'd have advised him not to have anything to do with us, only its evident he knows his present profession is a humbug, and that he's trying to find something else. Mary (Davies) is perhaps too simple and I had to caution her. I'd not put too much confidence

in de Wolf. Theres nothing really against him, only I had ~~an~~ instinctive feeling of my own. He is a Dutch Jew, no Hun. You might enlighten as to what to do in accepting a Bro(ther) from the Essene Lodge of Papus-dont want possible emissaries.

The others are all nice ordinary people and would help us. I saw, of the faithful only Steff Langston, who is as I thought an all right, and very genuine, he and Mary (Davies) took to each other-and a Mrs Philips, who has come back to us. He called at the Chaldean Library but L Henri (??) was ill. Mrs D(avies ?) invited 'Cheipo' to come one evening, but he didn't. I was surprised at Anna Wright never having acknowledged my letters. It turned out that she had been away abroad a long time and only got my letters just before I left London. I missed seeing her. Mrs D was kindness itself and I should have had a charming time, but for my unlucky cold. Its curious, as London air suits me better than Edinburgh. I kept out in the sun (it was ideal weather) all I could.

It was a black week otherwise. That stink in Dublin etc. The town is a ruin, I am told by people there, and done by Irishmen with Hun gold and Hun bullets. Man is indeed a base animal.

Its none of my business but you should give the enclosed to Mater, and I hope you have shared the former ones (Probably a £5 note. T) Give her my love and nothing is changed. I did no more than heartily sympathise with her, as I still do. I have trusted to your word that you are doing the straight and right thing in spite of appearance of dishonour, but some enlightenment would be welcome. Time goes on and there's no solution.

On the assumption that solution and éclaircissement will arrive one day I send you my blessing, BUT one tenth to you 9 tenths to Mater. Mrs D was speaking so kindly about her and recalling old times, but had no questions

Must. Fraternally. F. P.

By the way Mrs D(avies ?) has given Hobbs a forenoon engagement to look after her correspondence, so she has now a decent living and my mind (and conscience) is relieved about her. Its nearly 4 weeks since I heard from you

18 May 16?

C.F.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Ive rescued your 'Commentary' from Shirley. As its a bulky and valuable M.S. it seems prudent to keep it till thou sayest what thou willest to do with it.

B and H (London) Ive written to twice, but their voice is Silence. Not the slightest notice taken. I would take a Giants Thumb and ---- Im finding £3 a week for the blinking engraver. I came across lately a quite new and original fable that beats Aesop by a mile. Its about a wise man, a camel and the last straw. Worth noting re another matter. Im a bit complicated at present (no time to go into details) Letters now arrive slit open by the censors. No mo~~st~~ at presents, and no time but remanes (sic. T)

Fraternally. F.P.

Undated. Possibly Apr 1916
Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law

But it isnt any good about Craigmillar. There appears to be a strong opinion about that Morningside is the fitting and appointed residence of the G(fund) T(reasure)

the g(rand) T(reasurer) G(eneral). Its rather amusing the way different people take the Message. Most only see me, I suppose, as a pathetic victim of the latest freak religion. However Klowie.?) does not feel so b(ig) a f(ool) as he looks -

The enclosed letters from the good Mary (Davies) should rejoice you, as showing that one at least is really trying to do something. I wondered if Mrs D could do anything to help in finding a small house to store the things in in an easily accessible way, and which we could use as an office and for occasional meetings. The Regent St idea is good, you'll say its too respectable but a good address does have its value for the crowd and would attract a good class. I can't be responsible for £40 a year (everything included it would take £60) unless the London people ~~can~~ guarantee most of that sum. Haven't ~~he~~ heard so far. Hammond is rather hopeless, a stamped envelope for reply hasn't extracted any information from him. Its possibly his eyesight that's the trouble.

The good Staff Langston and Mary (Davies) are the only two who have sent for copies of the Message. Only one of the miscellaneous crowd I've written to had responded at all, and then merely to say she "didn't know any one to send the leaflet to" and didn't want any. It was obviously a case of hard-up-ness however. I've covered all the crowd I have the addresses of with the exception of two who (I hope are interned) and the Swiss members.

I remembered of Mary d'Este-Sturgis but have no note of her address. I haven't heard from you by this mail. but it may have come when I get home, too late for reply though. I expect you'll tell me of people you specially want it sent to, but, no, that would be ~~informations~~ and information appears to be agin the Law of Thelema. (One for me)

Knidion (? = Klowie.., as usual read your last letter first standing on its head, then on its tail but even both methods combined failed to extract any real information. However I've sent on the masterpiece of Diplomacy to Dennes and Lamb, with the careless remark that I've had great sympathy with A.C. in the difficulties the war has caused, ~~has~~ helped him to the limits of my ability, that (the wicked) A.C. is heavily in my debt, but that as I am aware of his prospects in the immediate future, I am not turning a damn hair. Or words to that effect. Was it the blackmail ~~thieves~~ ^(C) put them on? Then its me that is a true prophet...

Times up, some matters of interest, but no great importance, crowded out but this interesting serial will be continued in our next.

Fraternally. F.P.

10 Dollars belonging to M.O.H. enclosed as per promise.

78

25 May .?1916

Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law

I have your letter of the 10th this morning, and I fancy there's a mail this afternoon if I can complete this letter in time. I am very glad to have yours as I wondered if the emergency were awkward. It might have been that your subtle jocosity had landed you in trouble with the un-humourous. I will be anxious till the next letter to learn that there was no hitch about the money. I had to assume that being in Washington you'd have left your address at the Cable office or would call for a reply. There is no need for apology, this being an occasion on which we can cheerfully take an axe and bisect the Last bob, brotherly. The only bother is Malvers account, but by the time it comes in again, doubled, I should be able to meet it and before July

I may be able to send you 10 so that you will have an
(remainder missing. T)

Undated.. ? 1916. First pages or pages missing. ~~Set~~ Set 30.31

As regards the VII Degree Knowledge, et seq sequitur.

There is of course a great interest in re-reading with this clue many passages that formerly seemed mere jargon to me. Thomas Vaughan has e.g. suddenly become luminous in many ways. I am quite clear that I have now been led to know beyond doubt what the First Matter is. The feeling is that I know the Sanctuary of Nature and possess the Key, but that I do not know how to open the door, that being the real secret.

I can see how the Matter is the original primitive (material) substance semi-spiritual, immortal and containing in itself the archetypes of all forms and possessing the double potency of attracting to itself individual spirit spirits and of attracting to itself particles of gross matter to form their temporary envelope on this plane.

I can see how Aphrodite was said to be born from the foam, and many another allegory will become luminous no doubt. With regard to the further knowledge, I seem to be in the same position as I was to the VII degree, having a sort of general idea, without being able to clearly and definitely formulate it.

The alchemical terms are still a good deal of a puzzle, but it is impossible to resist coming to one conclusion, which I will set down partly to get your comment and partly to help clarify my mind. I am not discomfited if it seems ridiculous, knowing that the Work is ridiculous to the vulgar.

Well then, it appears to me that what is represented by the athanor is clear enough (三). This unique instrument being filled with vital heat (the true elemental of the Philosophers?) is placed within the Vase (三). One understands that this must be done sacramentally, and the sensuous element kept at bay. This being so, the athanor may be retained for an unknown time in a gentle heat. Probably the matter of quintessence of the Vase represents [♀] which has somehow to be combined with the [♂], extracted and dried. But how? I assume that the operation will terminate in the ordinary manner by the projection of the [♂] or 'white eagle', but by a method by which the 'volatile' or the momentary ecstasy is caught and retained, 'fixed' for some time and the gross or fixed thereby volatilised or impregnated with spirit. I understand of course that the volatilisation may have more than one interpretation. ^{quintessences}

Mainly when the Operation consists in the mixture of the 'q.e.'s mas et foemina and their reduction afterwards to a form of powder or stone. This does not seem incredible, nor the powers attributed to it any more miraculous than that of the original substance.

The Secret seems to be that of some quite simple method by which the operation is accomplished and which even I can by no means grasp.

The Green Lion and Red Dragon or red powder are a puzzle, but I have a vague notion by analogy of what is hinted at.

The picture of the 'Gold Seekers' seems clear, one recognises what is indicated by the stream which is what the gold seekers are digging for but which passes through their hands without their attaching any importance to it.

The 'Tree of Life' is not so completely clear.

By the blood of the Innocents in which the sun and moon are having a mixed bath (also the skewered baby) I see a hint that the operation is apart from the purposes of generation (?) But its a head splitting business altogether. From this protean substance more appears to be extractable than the material chemist gets out of coal tar

Now, knowing how it is done, the ? might arise, why don't you get hold of the stone, as medicine, and rise superior to the phlebitis and other little worries, for good. You gave me the hint that it requires, somehow, the co-operation of several people. ? why. I assume also that there's some point of etiquette to debar you from making use of it.

The above is all very well, but the important matter is to discover the method by which the LUX is attained to. The arousing of the Kundalini perhaps means only the extension of the consciousness into the secret light contained in the first matter, the opening of the inner eye and the surmounting of the illusion that oneself is the mass of gross matter which the more subtle original matter has spun round itself.

X What has made it affect me so much is that the Knowledge has been slowly imbuing me and helped by these last chapters I have come to realise the extreme holiness and sacredness of the secret, so that I feel a different being, whatever grossness that was left in me having now, I do believe, disappeared. And how little I seem to have understood you before.

And I feel as if I'd got the knowledge only to come within measurable distance of profaning it. It leaves me beaten, crushed, as if I couldn't lift my head any more. Do please write, or even send me a night cable letter. It means about a month's suspense else. The one comfort is that I now feel that He is in me and I in Him and that I am able to call to Him for peace.

M may have thought no more about it, but I will try to let her infer, first time that we meet that I was sort of 'kidding' her, it's safest. But it will make me a thousandfold more careful hereafter and never to pose as possesse of superior knowledge.

I understand so much better and it's good to be able without cant or snivel to sign myself yours in the Lord.

Geo M Cowie

>(Note. The last page starting from X is clearly from a later letter than the former pages. T.)

13 June . 1916

yo

Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law

Your welcome letter of the 23rd May reached me on Friday the 9th. The sudden change of note at the end made me smile, but it is so agreeable a change - so 'ts 'we' now? that I let you off any sarcastic remarks. also, I have not twisted the Beast his tail since he assured me that on his honour etc etc.

Well, that was a fine little scrap 'we' had. As fine a thing as when Francis Drake began to drum the Dons up the Channel. But think of the stupidit of the Anglo-Saxon the first day; acknowledging all his losses and saying very little of those of the enemy, and also think of that amoosin' little Kuss, the Kaiser hailing the flight of the relics of his battered and groggy fleet as a splendiferous victory and forthwith fervently worshipping his Fetish and sitting down to design a medal.

You don't mention it so I don't know if you got the blasted cable all right.

Mary (davies) appears to be vehemently épris of de Wolf and does not drive him from the door. No, gives him the use of her rooms for a Hebrew class. She is doing daily some weird Yod Heh Yod Heh practice for which he gave her the Recipe and declares it is good for her poor health. She wrote impressively of a wonderful Qabalistic diagram he had done for her. Later, she sent it and I grinned. It is the familiar perpendicular arrangement of

Tetragrammaton, so that it looks like a human figure-of sorts. The letters were ingeniously traced in red outline on a figure of Adam Kadmon, ~~most a bad~~ not a bad idea, only shorn of impressiveness by the Sephiroth being placed wrong. That is, if Westcott's arrangement is correct, Wolf's or Papus' is ~~wrong~~. They have Chokmah on the forehead, Binah on the right shoulder, Gedulah and Gevurah as on the tree, instead of on the left and right respectively. I'm no authority on the rest, but as I don't want Mary to become a Papist I freely expressed derision. We don't need to pick up 'practices' from outsiders. Wolf, of course, may be all right - I just have a Dr Fell sort of feeling about him, and would be cautious. ^{that he is of an intrusive nature I am certain.}

Financially I have had a bit of a staggerer. Bill for the repairs at Boleskine amounts to £76 odd; odds - I did not expect much over £40, though one knows what that rough estimates are always exceeded. We could not with any decency have avoided this and anyway its a long way below the £500 first demanded, and better than as big a bill for 'damages' - I'm afraid there have been some minor ones. I can't find or pay £76 except in course of time, but I will not let this go unpaid on any account. What I propose to do is to confiscate the next quarters rent, I will scrape together as much as will make it £50 and pay off that much. This will reduce the account to less frightful dimensions, and I'll manage to clear off the balance after a time. This does not mean depriving you of your income, I will send you a little each month, as I earn it, instead of humiliating myself by paying this bill in small instalments.

Thank goodness we've got through two years, now without real disaster, and I've kept my income, though that didn't seem a certainty at the outset. Also if They are going to relent, we are two years nearer the time, and in one way or another I'm not so scared of this 76 odd as I'd formerly have been. Also the Tailor (£300.0.3d!) and the Baker and the Candlestick Maker all appear to have got tired of wasting stamps by sending in their little bills. (Touch wood!) If I'm slated for wasting a quarters rent on a blackmailin' Inverness thief (its no't Frasers don't fear) I don't care. You've had a slice of it in anticipation and will have more, even to the half of my Dukedom. Selah.

By the way I wish you'd give me a translation of the Greek in the final exordium of the Star Ruby. I note that my smattering of Greek is enough to let me make out the general meaning of the passage, but that of three or four words (iunges, teletarchia initiation? ancient mysteries? phlegel (they, the spirits burn, or are inflamed?) the exact sense is uncertain, of sunoches I cannot trace in any dictionary.

There was some M.M.M. property pawned for £90. No interest note has ever come to this year and I cannot trace the 'broker', Hobbs cant, and I expect its one of the letters held up at 33. Do you remember who holds the things?

(remainder of letter missing.)

22 June 1916?
Care Frater.

81

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Some good news this time, I heard through Hobbs that the landlord at Regent Str has offered the rooms at the nominal rate of £30, no rates or taxes. This very reasonable sum ought to be easily within the compass of the London people. so I wrote to Mary (Davies) at once and advised her to take the rooms at once, as I was sure the rent could be managed. I said I was

feeling rather ashamed, when I got letters from South Africa etc that we were doing nothing and that the only reason seemed to be that I was up to the hilt already, as regards both time and money. So I've heard from her this morning June 22 (to appease your appetite for dates) She's a brick, went and took the rooms, like a shot (in spite of the fears of Bro Davies) and all I have to do is to arrange with Hobbs what to take out of store and what leave. I'll do so this weekend but I had said that the whole furnishings of the Inner Temple are not to be touched nor any of your personal belongings. I'll take away however as much publication stock as the Regent St place will accommodate and this should greatly reduce, I hope, the charges.

Mary has taken a weight off my mind as we are making a real start at last. She is coming to stay with me 3 days on Monday week and will be able to talk everything over. She's never been in Edinburgh before and I fancy I'll be able to make things pleasant for her. She certainly deserves it. W Steff Langston is going to be a valuable help too.

B Hammond. Not a word yet. No proofs, no nothing, no proof that the Butcher has botched anything whatever for (now) £15.

By the way I have in my house a pile of waste paper purporting to be the Collected works of one "Leister Rowley. Ever hear of him?

Did Mary mention a Dr Newton I think who was to call on you? He thinks Dead Waite is the greatest living authority on Freemasonry. M(ary) gently advised him otherwise. Last sheet of paper, last scrap of time so Fraternally. F.P.

3 July 1916?

82

Things are getting a move on. Sister Mary (Davies) is here. Today, the weather is fiendish and as I've taken a day off, we have got a vast quantity of work done and all sorts of points settled. Our palatial premises in Regent St are secured, and are now being cleaned and painted and should be ready for a formal opening shortly. I don't think that there is much fear about funds. The great thing is that we have got the ball moving at last, and it will grow as we go on.

I have thought it right, pending your approval to arm Mary myself with a weapon, copy of which I enclose. This arose out of something that did not not surprise me. M(ary) mentioned that some one who was doing the painting gratis and that de Wolf had offered to paint the ceiling with the Sun and Eye (in approved Papistical style, I suppose) "we are in no need of being taught by outsiders, or of borrowing their symbols. Wolf is the sort of man who thinks himself awfully advanced because he is a IV degree Paustical Papistical Essene, and I knew the thing he would do would be to be very officious and very condescending in trying to improve us by his own superior and august knowledge. I went for Mary and impressed on her that this sort of thing was to be sat on. You may think I'm making a fuss about a very small matter, but it will save trouble in the end, if I adopt a firm attitude at the outset, and make it clear that any attempt at introducing 'improvements' or of bossing the show, by a Dutchjewchristian-missionary won't work. I've impressed on Mary that when our bad days are over and there is a proper place for a Lodge, no lax methods will be permissible, and that it is wise, now, to start with proper and rigorous methods. (work)

I've also advised her to ~~work~~ quietly at the outset and aim at steady growth and gradual accretion, rather than by advertising. He thought of putting an ad. in the Occult Review but that would very likely put Ellis Pears on the track, and give us trouble. Well keep a 'calm' 'ough' at first, till there's less risk of trouble from the blasted swine.

Report Sec O.T.O.

Besides regular Lodge work I think the place should be open one specified evening in each week for callers and enquirers and for open Lodge. Mary proposes to give an occasional Sunday lecture. I said that would be capital, as everybody could come and it would be like a sort of recruiting station. We will do things in a business like way and I'm arranging for special properly stamped no te paper and so on.

By the way I have written a note officially appointing Steff Langston Sec and Treasurer ~~of~~ of this particular section. He will take charge of the local funds and so save me some fag, but report to me regularly, and it will assure the London members that their funds are used for their own benefit. M(ary) greatly approves of this and signed the Note jointly with me. As its but a local sort of matter, the sort of thing we must do, or Judge of, ourselves, I dont think it necessary to bother you to confirm the document only let me know if I'm right or not.

I've drafted a circular to send out to all, informing them of the whole matter, and stating that all in a position to do so should make it a point of honour to assist by resuming regular subscriptions. All who desire to be considered ~~to~~ as in good standing and loyal to the Order and their oath are bound to report themselves, now. Those unable to contribute are in no wise out of good standing but should report themselves etc etc.

Love to M.O.H. and I hope she will have a thundering success and then write to me. Mary I am sure joins me in sending love to you both, in fact she beats me hollow at amiable things like that and I hereby straitly enjoin and command her that she appends her Most Worshipful signature and endorsement to the above statement.

(Note Following in Mary Davies' hand.T)

Mary Davies, my love to you both, you will have heard all the news and the efforts we are making to cheer you and show by deeds our loyalty and sincere regards. All the Brethren would I know like me to conclude them thus in this and very especially brother W.R.D(avies) What a dear man Bro Cowie is, but nevertheless a tease as A.C has sad reason to know.

59 83

2 July 1916 ?

Care Frater.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Your last letter, dated I dont remember when, came too late for acknowledgement last mail day. This day, the date to it is the second July - You look at it, I might be the 5th November. This is the coldest wettest summer on record. Mary (Davies) comes tomorrow evening from Glesca and I will jot down things for your information as we go on. Its been a piece of good luck getting these rooms in Regent Street at so easy a rent, and with these as a basis I feel we can now begin to 'carry on' - It wouldnt have been possible, however, without Mary and is due to her.

From Hammond the Hopeless I havent had a line up to now. Its most trying. I cannot even, without seeing what method he is following, consider the possibility of getting someone else to complete the engraving of the letter-press. A difficulty might be overcome by giving detached pieces of the work to different hands, so that no-one man would be able to piece together the mystic information conveyed. But that would mean more l.s.d.

When we get ready fairly under weigh, i.e. when the rooms are cleaned furnished and available for all Members, I shall send out encore a circular, stating that as etc etc.

July 2. DESTROY.

July 2 ~~DESTROY~~

83

Its not serious, so far, but things came to a sort of crisis with me this week. It was not altogether unexpected, and is merely one of these sudden changes of personnel, which have always bothered me, and bring new and trying conditions. End of last year, a firm of publishers (offices almost opposite B and H) failed (for lack of capital emergency funds, I believe) Our firm bought up the whole business, lock stock and barrel, and in a very decent way amalgamated with it with their own, taking the two partners on to their own staff. Work was taken from others to provide for them, and a good bit of mine. I retained the charge of the pictures etc for the various 'libraries', this being a definite job in itself. I expect they found there was not enough work to keep all going, so the other day I was politely informed that that Mr (?) T was to be in charge of all the art-work, and that I was to consult him and get his approval for everything. What I am doing can't be done without reasonable freedom and the use of ones own initiative and I've had that for a goodish time now and no fault found that I am aware of. I couldn't fancy myself running like a boy to a virtual stranger with everything I did, and it seemed a tough problem just what to do. But for a certain commercial transaction about a Black Egg, I'd certainly have treated myself to the Supreme Luxury of good naturedly bidding the firm to go to Gehenna, and I'd have gone and lived the tranquil life of a scholar on an income just sufficient for my simple wants. There was a great temptation to do this, even on a totally insufficient income, but then there is not only myself to consider. Five years ago I was straining every nerve so that I could liberate myself, as I calculated I could on my 55th birthday. Curiously this crisis has come within a month of it.

I thought it over carefully and concluded that the best way was to yield to circumstances, but talk it over quite frankly with the villain of the piece who is a decent fellow, and whose work as a publisher I admired. I put my own point of view, which he quite understood, and arranged that he would come to Mohamet, and just see what was ~~old~~ing etc. As I knew it would come to that eventually I graciously offered to surrender the commissioning of all work to him. It deprives me of the most dignified and interesting work I've had, and I can't call myself an 'art-editor-' now. Not that that's any odds. Besides my assistants are off to the war, so I've had to take my coat off for extra work how it's going to end, or if I'll stand it, so I have one reason added to many, to hope that 'They' will relent before too long and cease exposing you to the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. The Pop, wot lark! (sic. T)

You know me well enough to understand it's not dross I'm keen for, nor the comfort of that ass G.M.C. It is that F.P. can't advance fast, so long as he has to wait and stand aside while G.M.C. is footling over, and earning dross for their joint benefit. Dross alas is necessary. I was tempted to chuck it all up, and see what happened, but it's rather a large risk.

This letter is a disjointed collection of bits written at different times, some on the same sheet. This bit is dated Jul 6 and I've written previously an account of other matters. The sheet previous to this, should be destroyed as referring to private matters.

Mary Davies had a curious experience. She was billeted on a Mrs Crowley, who dwelleth in Parkhead, Glesgie (Glasgow. T.). Parkhead isn't precisely the fashionable quarter, and poor Mary couldn't feel to enter the door, and left Mrs C posing as the Dweller on the Threshold - her own Threshold, whilst she went to what she calls a 'Sockheels' Street Hotel.

Well I'm preparing to go and see our Good Mary off to London again after lunch, and must think of winding up - to get this epistle registered and posted.

Made M(ary) D(avies) on another spsre p̄ece append her M.W. signature to amiable sentiments so no more save-fraternally F.P.

84

?? date. Possibly Feb 1916.

Re H(ammond) It was scandalous carelessness losing a M.S. entrusted to him and taking no notice of my letter about it. I enclose more than the postage so that he might also send me the Priapus book which I prefer to store here. Fortunately the Epistle was a duplicate, I am pounding away on a copy, on Little W. before the original leaves my possession, to guard against accidents. Althea will now be able to make copies which I shall send to S(outh) A(frica) etc at earliest possible. (Copy is nearly finished)

Hammond put himself on his honour to complete the steel blocks in six weeks from the time I was in London. If he fails I shall have nothing further to do with him. Its more weak slackishness than ill will, or I'd suggest putting him under duresse.

85

Undated. ? Feb 1916.

A Petition to His Most Sacred Majesty the Supreme and Holy King ruling in Iona Ireland and all the Britains, that is in the Sanctuary of the Gnosis.

Most Holy, Most Illuminated and Most "orshipful Father.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

It seems befitting, that I should acknowledge in due and ceremonial form the receipt of the Patalor letter, the contents of which I shall gladly convey to my Brethren in the Order. This is the formal acknowledgement thereon for which scantiness of time failed me on its first receipt. I rejoice to be the means of conveying this intelligence from you to my Brethren who must be marvelling as to the welfare and place of pilgrimage of the Rex Supremus. This I shall do on the entry of the Sun into Tries at the Vernal Equinox.

Love is the Law, Love under Will. In the bonds of the Order: Dutifully and Fraternally.

George M Cowie. VII Degree.

86

13 July. ? 1916

I am enclosing two or three letters from Steff Langston, partly that you may judge what an all-righter he is, and how useful he is going to be, and fit, I think, to for advancement; and partly because you ought to have that information as to the working of the S(outh)A(frican) section. It may be that the Lodge is worked on ordinary Masonic lines for some reason, or under approval, any way this information coming the day after Mary had departed, convinced me that I had done a wise thing inarming her with that formidable injunction against the entry of 'fancy' methods or the corruption of the official rites. S(tell) L(angston), as you will judge, will be a faithful ally in keeping things matters straight, in that direction.

The Bro Braidwood referred to, wrote me from London, (I am not certain if I told you in last letter) enclosing an introduction from Windram and asking to be put in touch with the others. As Mary (Davies) would just then be very busy, I turned him over to S(teff) L(angston) meanwhile, especially as the latter would be interested in a man from Johannesburg.

As you will have observed Lupus (de Wolfe.T) got my caper also. I did rub it in to Mary. He seems to have got completely round her. The circular I am going to send out re finance is much on the lines you say.

Record-yes, but my real wonder is whether anything spectacular can be

expected as the result of practically but one hours steady work out of the 24. My work is of such a kind, I need to keep all my lesser wits about me, and concentrate OFF The Work most of the day.

Your long and interesting letter came this morning (did I mention it is July 13?) I havent had time to digest it or look up the references, so I am quite bewildered about the Sensation Baby.

I am glad if there is any likelihood of help from S(outh) A(frica). The London folks, I think, will just manage to pay their own expenses and I hope the various Shylock's accounts. Even at that, it should relieve me of a good deal. There should be enough regalia left but we ought not to have sent so much to Canada. Africa asked for much the same, but I ignored that.

I'll write to the liquidators B and H, But M.K. wont see all his £20 again. Must stop, as usual, abruptly. So Long. All sympathy, but youll pull through though. Fraternally. F.P.

Description of life-Bristol-makes my mouf water.

87

20 July. ? 1916.

C.F.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Last letter I remembered the date all right, but forgot to enclose the latter itself, or at least the commencement and two pages of it. Now I cant lay my hands on it, have left it in a desk, behind me. It was mainly explanatory of the various things enclosed.

I was greatly relieved to have a letter a few days ago from W. and W. Mrs Brook (tenant of Boleskine, T) has agreed to pay Russell's account (£76 odd) -(for repairs. T) on full, and beginning next quarter will deduct £10 each quarter till the sum is repaid. That of course means that I spread the payment over the next two years. I shall not, if possible, let you suffer, it will be just the same as far as you are concerned. The result meantime is that you can have, altho' already chisely anticipated, £25 or 30 any time between now and 1st October. I dont enclose anything this time as it will be advisable to keep this sum to fall back on, when you emerge from retirement, and will feel the want of money. I was nearly in a hole, but this has saved things for the present, and for this piece of financial stratagem I deserve the Brazen Cross of the Most Ignoble Order of the Huckster.

Havent much time of this is to catch the mail. Had yours this a.m.. I am apparently of good report and right conduct and not long ago I wasnt to get dhyana on account of disliking a stink and incomprehensible people who publicly extol a stink as a Perfume. What the F(oreign) O(ffice) says isnt evidence on this point.

Has it struck you, by the way, that the whole world is gasping and waiting for the name to me, which is (fraternally)

FIAT PAX *Waddul*

I hope M(other) O(f) H(eaven) is not writing to me because she thinks Im not writing to her. I dont know where a letter would reach her.

88

Undated. ? 1916

Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law

Are you razzle dazzled by my official paper? Hammond has sent what he says is the final plate. (proof enclosed) and promises a pull of the first chapter this or next week. Possibly the progress we are now making has stimulated him. By the way the extra copy you mentioned has never reached me

I enclose a letter from M(ary) Davies. You will observe that there is no diminution of the reluctance of the older members to come forward. I have my suspicions as to the reason in some instances, and who shall blame them? S(teff) L(angston)'s letter - I wanted to get at the stage he has arrived at in Knowledge, and as you see he is not yet prepared for enlightenment. I wont be in a hurry. He is coming to stay a week here in the course of this month, and I shall be able to direct him as to what to specially reflect on in the course of his reading - and let him come gradually to comprehension.

I thought it might be that Althea should be admitted to membership, she has been most loyal and has done good service. From her latest letter I infer that she is now a Brother.

The note signed W.G.Nairne (? a £5 note.T) may be interesting. It would be better no doubt to reserve such till you emerge from the G.M.R. but it is sent in case of need. I'm very busy and am writing this in the morning. No letter from you by this morning's mail

All good wished. Fraternally. F.P.

27 July 1916. Mary Davies to Cowie.

Do what thou wilst etc. 89

Care Frater

Details of N. Regent St. group O.T.O

Many thanks for yours of Monday and for the fire which helped us to get to work at once. Has H(ammond) sent your papers to you? I really dont know if he is going to come in and help us. S(teff) L(angston) wrote his days before our coming together for a Lodge of Instruction and considering he is only 3 minutes away he might have come but he did not. However something must be said if he doesnt, with only new people its most desirous that at least 2 or 3 of the old Brethren come, so as to preserve intact and exact our order of things. However the L(odge) O(f) Ins(tru)ction was properly held, we did Minerval and 1st degree. The Lodge is still waiting the receipt of furniture etc. Althea keeps on worrying Mawers about the men and the removal, and I do hope it wont be long ere it is in working order.

Last week was a very big one in endeavour, and getting the new seekers to call and see S.L. I think he has been able to get in £20 or so and paid out a good deal also, gas and gas stoves and windows nice furnished, and the place looks really nice. Althea has paid the interest of the big pawn loan this week so now both are settled. She has money in hand from the sale of books. I have written Anna Wright again. If she is here it is strange she does not reply - and Mabyn Fay took V degree very little while before the break up. She should come and give a hand in working, but she is W(orshipful) M(aster) of the Emulation Lodge of Co-Masons. Best has affiliated and so has the Wolfe. Best asks me to send you his greetings now as in the Bonds of the Order his address is C E Best 93 Wallwood Rd Leytonstone. E. I am sure he will prove a great help. I've asked him to call on the man who does Samadhi Samadhi on the Train, 'Olney'. So he'll turn up I hope soon I hope. I note what you say of Major Fuller and Raffalovitch, I knew the latter from the rites (of Eleusis ?.T) If you are in communication tell them to call. I must wire you as soon as the first Holy Work begins in the Lodge, and I would like you to note the aspect of the moment. What do you think of this inquiry - Lady Palmer of Biscuit fame came to ask if she couldnt have a lodge in her own house, and what would it cost etc. I told her to come in first and then we could inquire of the Council afterwards, but it does show that there are signs of good links, I wonder if there are any typed commentaries on

Minerval. I asked Althea. I do know there were, but none seem to be in sight. S.L. is coming I think to stay the week end here at the flat next week and the Monday following we go to Brighton for 10 days, so it looks unlikely for work to begin till September in real earnest, so perhaps after all you will be our August guest both at Lodge and here. So M(ote) It Be. We all hope you are well and cultivating devotion for yourself. Because if you get too giddy at 79½ we shall not be able to keep you in the body till you are 97½. I am studying Liber Legis and 418, and find several points alluding. Well dear Frater W and M (William and Mary Davies ?) both send Fraternal Greetings and Love in the Holy Bonds of the Order.

Hail and Farewell. Pentulo (T.T.)

----- The Vision and The Voice (in Equinox)

90

Cowie to A.C. Undated. ? 1916 . Possibly 1917.

Yours of apparently Sep 9. I'm sorry now about the expression I used, but obviously no personal insult to any one was intended. I know nothing about the Outer Head of the Order. Theodote Reuss.) personally, if he were a reincarnation of Jacon Boeheme, it would not alter my point, which is merely that I feel uncomfortable about British & people joining us when they are in ignorance of something they wouldn't like (which however they may never know at all, unless they reach VIII degree) Its been worrying me, though I don't suppose I'd even have thought of it but for your McCarthy articles-I have always protested about these, as even assuming that you were talking through your hat, I don't see what they can cause us but trouble if we are made to look as a body as being in favour of the McA's- I have a painful habit, as you are well, aware, of preferring to look like a fool and a blighter rather than shirk saying certain things or appear to acquiesce in what I don't like, and this if only for the sake of being put right- I so wanted a clear explanation of our position about this-and have perhaps got morbid on the subject and gone beyond bounds.

That is certainly the case in another instance recently. Especially after the new Manifesto and the reading of the IX degree MSS. I feel I was vilely in the wrong to speak of the 'McCarthy Origin' (note for 'McCarthy' read 'German'.T) of the O.T.O.. I am not really so miserably ignorant as that seems to imply, though- I'm really ashamed now. But this I know- I HATE being on bad terms with you, and this wretched McCarthy (German.T) business has been the cause of the only quarrel we ever had. Truly I have no hatred as you seem to think towards the McA's, rather hatred of this miserable situation caused. I was perhaps trying to force your hand for a fuller explanation and get things cleared up. The honest truth is that I've never been able to think of you quite in the same way, since you took to 'politics', and I don't like that feeling

(McCarthy instead of German. T. refers to A.C.'s articles (remainder of letter missing. T) pro-German articles in The Fatherland

----- The organ for Viereck's German propaganda in The W. Steff Langston to Cowie. 4 Sept 16. From Woburn, S.O., Feds. Water. 4-24 Care Frater.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Your last letter was rather in the nature of a surprise to me and I may have some considerable difficulty in answering suitably. That you have considered me worthy to be put forward for advancement gives me much joy and I only hope that I may be able to justify your good opinion, although I at the same time fear that I may not yet prove worthy. My primary difficulty may lie in the poverty of my knowledge of the Rituals and working of the M.M.M., the only ceremony at which I have been present

being that of my own initiation to the R.A. of which my memories are naturally somewhat confused, with the exception of the Lecture of which I have a copy and have studied to a more or less extent. Having affiliated to the III Degree from Craft M(asonry) I knew nothing of the rituals O-III. TH (in Greek. Presumably Therion. T) promised me that I should read them, but by the time that a suitable opportunity presented itself 33 (Avenue Studios) was closed so until last week when Sor D sent me a sketch of O degree I had not met with the Tent of S(aladin) and it was only yesterday when we went through I Degree for ~~x~~ the first time. So that is the full extent of my knowledge of the M.M.M. rituals, consequently my knowledge of the symbolism is correspondingly limited, which I am finding a great disadvantage just now in connection with work which is devolving on me, but at difficult moments I like Brer Rabbit lay low and say nuffin' and look as wise as may be under the circumstances.

My astrological studies have led me to the conclusion that all things relating to our material condition are ~~fixed~~ and that we have no free-will in these matters, all fitting in to the plan of the G(reat) A(rchitect) D(f) T(he) U(niverse). That the only thing 'free' is the Spirit. that spark of God Himself dwelling in us, but that from every circumstance of life that Spirit may of its own free will and accord take an up or downward projection, in other words, either free itself or become more deeply immersed in the material. Therefore as we Masons also call ourselves 'Free' we mean that with the chisel and gavel are ever chipping away the stone until Galatea is freed from all that binds her or prevents the manifestation of her glorious beauty. That we are clearing away that which is fixed from that which is free, so that the spirit may again be ready to unite with its primal source.

The A(pron) is a projection of the Pyramid. The Temple and also Mount of Initiation in it are joined the Holy Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 12. On it stand the Sun, Moon and Mercury. It is worn as an A(pron) because it must stand on Yesod. As a Pyramid it refers to the Holy City which lying foursquare had its length and breadth and height equal. I am quite prepared to learn that there are other infinitely more profound reasons for the use of these names and symbols and even as I have sketched my ideas here on the subject, much more could be written, but it is the main points of my observations research and conclusion upon them. ^{A.C. first set a ritual, worn in places so close to the Masonic ones, that when}

The T(ent) of S(aladin) belonging as it seems as far as I know to the O degree rite only, and being outside in the desert, refers I should imagine from the symbol of the grade O to the fact that I degree is the birth-to the curtains of the bridal bed, where the wandering soul is caught and joined to the material base in order that it may be able to pass through its initiations, but I have not yet had much opportunity to meditate upon this point yet as the idea was new to me. Still I hope, in fact have a feeling of certainty, that I am on the right track.

I consider that ordinary M(asonry) stands for initiation of the Body, the M.M.M. and O.T.O. that of the Soul and the ~~S.A.~~ the Supreme Spiritual.

I quite realize that there are especial dangers attending the initiation of the unsuitable, particularly to the higher degrees. The whole of the Equinox seems to emphasize this. I remember perfectly the incident to which you refer. The one Life object for ~~me~~ me has been to aspire with weak and faltering steps I fear, to the Light and ever to more and more Light, that I might be able to help to guide others. For myself it is improbable that I should ever do much, but I would go far to help a B(rother) and should I be entrusted and honoured with such a weighty responsibility as you suggest is possible, it would be my peculiar joy to use such knowledge as I had for the good of mankind in general and the Order in particular. I

A.A.

know that the back and the burden always move to fit.

It becomes more and more evident to me that there must be some weighty authority to carry the new work through with success. At present things are rather chaotic in the most general sense, but we must 'keep on loving and trusting'.

I dont quite understand H(ammond)'s attitude. Do you think that he feels that he is VI degree and Soror D(avies) V degree, he didnt turn up yesterday as we had hoped he would, pleaded business. Soror A(nna) W(right) too. Soror D(avies) cannot get any replies from her, but she may (Soror D) mention this. I dont know that I ought to have done so, but it is as with many things you say to me, between ourselves.

Dora .you know whom I mean. is going to/redeem the Cross. I met her and like her very much. Best is affiliating. I like him too. Wolf is joining. He's a quaint chap. A lot of surface probably. and lacks manners. but I think I can manage him.

(note. S.L. writes a full stop for a comma throughout)

Sor(or) D(avies) is one of the most lovable of her charming sex, she has sweetness tact power and ability in profusion, but her organization is likely to be much better in theory than practice, but she is just the one to attract the people we need.

It is most kind of you to invite me to see you. I quite hope to be able to avail myself of the invitation as there are so many things for which I need help which you could give me, and then there would be the great pleasure in itself of seeing you. ~~Sabat~~ Sunday duty ties me greatly just now as my deputy is unable to help me, but I am hoping to get away between Sundays and that will be better than nothing

I fear that this epistle may be very unsatisfactory in many ways but there is always a certain amount of consolation in the immortal words 'worse remains behind' but we must hope 'not much worse'. I hope that you are getting the sunshine, here it is glorious today, also I hope you are keeping quite well.

My most affectionate greetings and good wishes to you V'ery) I (Illustriou Bro(ther)

Yours in the Bonds of the Order.
W Steff Langston

91.

?liber Aprie 27th.

24 -27 Sept. ? 1916.

Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

I am now back again from London I have got Hammond on very amicable terms and he is on honour to ~~finish~~ finish the plates within six weeks and to do all he can to help at ~~Begeent-Str~~ Regent Str. I think we can be confident of him being able clear by the end of the year.

Re book Kaph Fe, I found it hopeless to attempt to make a written copy before I left, and to attempt other two, after, would be like biting off more than I could chew. This especially as the copy H(ammond) has appears to be imperfect. There's a note on p 30 about some more chapters. On Monday before I left I decided to get typed copies made (3), I divided the pages into two sets, of odd and even pages, and gave each to different offices, thus getting it done more quickly as well as depriving the typists of any thread, tho' really this wouldn't matter.

Its a pity I have not the perfected original you referred to. The Temple copy of the IX degree M.S.S. is at 93 (Regent Str) I broke the seal in the hope that the MS you referred to was in that. No, it's only contained MSS

Regent St. 91 group

66

already known to me, including the VII degree and VIII degree.

(By the way do you remember showing me, when I was at 33 (Avenue Studios) in Oct 1914 a page or two of matter about the physical nature of the planet planets? You showed me this with precaution, I think, as if it were part of some secret, and I expected to come across it when I opened the M.S. The above particularly interested me at the time and I wish I could see it again.)

One of the typewriting offices could not supply the full 3 copies on Monday but as I was anxious to return the original to Hammond before I left, they did one copy and kept the carbon to repeat from, I was able to complete one copy therefore, the evening I left, filling in the Greek and Latin words etc. From this I will fill in other two copies here, I shall post you two copies with this and retain the carbon one meanwhile pending instructions, that is if the remaining sheets come from London in time. They did not turn up this morning (Wed Sep 27). I have perhaps risked throwing money away on imperfect copies but by adding the extra pages to these loose sheets they may be all right. Hammond's copy began with page 2 (title page) The page with short quotations and the Hebrew was missing and I suppose it is p.1. This did not strike me in time. Its too late to get it done to add to the sets I shall post. It will follow, but at a pinch it would take very little time to dictate the English to your frog footman and scribble in the Hebrew.

I hope you get the thread of all this, I cant make it shorter, havent time to. But to be clear - I was able to leave Hammonds original copy behind me. He didn't turn up that day, and I couldn't get full information about everything, but I made sure of the packet of MS being returned direct into his own hands.

Re 'Voice of Silence' / I found Hobbs hadn't done a word of this, nor of a copy of Energised Enthusiasm for O.H.O. (Theodore Reuss. T) Her excuse is that our typewriter is battered out. I have told her to take the M.S. to an office and get a clear copy, and one carbon made. How I'm to find the money is another story.

Re Message from Parzival (S Stansfield Jones. T) Can't print till others are paid for, but will see that all the principal lodge officers get typed copies of the Manifesto with instructions to pass round. This will do in the meantime. I am expecting copies of the Manifesto this week. Parcels of the 'Law' are sent out. I shall send copies of both to Shirley and try to put to him that he has a big opportunity before him and offer the J B Mason article, besides free permission to reprint or quote from our literature.

S(teff) L(angston) and I as time and postage expenses allow will send round the same to all the newspapers and journals worth while. We cant do much however, except by buying space and printing the new Rules of the Game as an advertisement and there's no damn money. I think I understand better now why not - (after reading the IX degree) It should be a simple matter to you, I infer that you had taken a solemn oath of renunciation, and to establish the Law off your own bat, so to speak. Hinc illae lachrymae.

I didnt do half of what I hoped to do in London. A whole weeks leisure from business seemed wealth compared to my normal working week, but you know how time gets frittered away when it is at other people's mercy.

S(teff) L(angston) is in sad trouble at present, father and mother both in a dying state. Things at 93 (Regent St) would not have gone so well minus him. He has been our right hand man. King Charles's head (? de Wolf) kept his place after all, and except for a tendency to try to impress us by weird signs of his own, did not try to 'improve' on things. He's probably harmless enough. I was sur

Regent St. 91 group

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harmless enough. I was surprised to find him conducting a Hebrew class in Mary's room at 4.30, the students being three ladies of the Order. I did not think it very pretty-seemed like letting a Dutch Jew rope in and get an influence over, the ladies, and I said so to Mary (in my usual style). I thought they must have overmuch spare time if they used it to learn Yiddish, but she explained that one lady was in earnest about it, her brother being a distinguished student of Hebrew.

Hammond says he (de Wolf T.) should never have been allowed to join us, but hasn't said why. I just don't want to trust him or give him rope, till we are surer about him. He gives in his Pledge-form, "Study of the Secret Tradition in Israel" as one of his motifs, and possibly he might be useful to you for digging at this subject. He appears to have plenty of time.

I have never heard anything from the two adepts you asked me to write to re the Greek Qabalah. If no answer by tomorrow, I shall write again. It may merely be that both are on ~~holiday~~ holiday. I did hope that Frater Psi (in Greek T) would call at Regent Str, but ~~no such luck~~.

I saw nothing more of Dora Vogt. I liked her the best of the new B(rethren) but wasn't sure if she liked me. I told Mary (Davies) that I felt I could give her the V degree quite soon, and that you would consent, as you once authorised me to offer this to suitable newcomers.

I think it was quite a successful week and that the extra care and solemnity of the workings made them impressive and memorable to the newcomers. I felt that something of this was due to the fact that they see me seldom, so that my presence as S.A.I.A. was more imposing than e.g. S(teff) L(angstrom) or Hammond's would be. Then Mary knows the ropes and saw to it that I was received with proper dignity, which I rather insisted on, too, as your representative. They are all very loyal to you. The prescribed alteration on the Ritual by adding the formula "Do (what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law) etc was duly made. I had a copy of the instructions fixed to a small tablet. Hammond, however, asked in Lodge when shown this what the devil Thelema meant! He told me himself he is VIIth degree and no further, contrary to what the others represent him as having said. I do not think he understands much of what he has been engraving. One needs to have studied and thought over the VIIth degree and VIIIth degree first.

I am not pretending one moment that I understand it myself! That is to say not in full. I guess the point to which it all tends, but should not dare to experiment without clear knowledge of the kind which cannot be communicated in written words. Merely having read the MS doesn't make me feel I am IXth degree-but it makes everything more precise and stops futile efforts at research. Too little knowledge has been a dangerous thing in more directions than one.

By the way the worst loss of time occurred over my trying to find Spooners in the Strand. There was once a shop of that name, but its gone. I tracked him to Shaftesbury Avenue whence also he had fled. I tried another firm, also vanished and fled and having no more time gave Althea a list of the photos and to go to Museum Str. She will try to get the Grimoire and MSS out of store, but she almost turns pale when asked. Mawers have moved half of the stuff to Chelsea. I went with her one morning. No one was there to let us in, though we had arranged it 2 days before by telephone. Thus stuff must be got out of Mawers hands somehow. I don't know how, but if one of the B(rethren) could lend us a room in his own house not too far away, it would be easy. I cannot guarantee that you will get the stuff, but Althea will do her best and is the one who knows how. It means tips however and extra payments for men's time.

I'm afraid Althea (clearly Mrs Hobbs. T) is precious little use to Mary (Davies) and doesn't earn her 15/- a week ~~but-she-will-do-her-best-as-7/6 a week would be fairer.~~ She has been made 1 degree by the way, and is no further use when it comes to anything beyond the V degree stuff. Even that Grimoire shouldn't really be handled by her.

Bro Regifs, Geneva, never replied to former communications. One of my new sisters is making a written copy of the L of L to be sent to him. I add a request that he will translate it into French and cause it to be circulated (Note. Refers to the Law of Liberty tract. T) You do not seem to be aware that no printed matter can be sent to neutral countries on the Continent except by arrangement with ~~5~~ certain booksellers. The above method is quicker. Lets struggle with wild beats at Ephesus, but with W.H. and S,---!

Thursday 28th.

After Agape

The typewritten balance of Book C turned up, so I am able to send you by this same post, two practically completed copies, so far as the M.S. in Hammond's hands goes.

I got my parcel of Manifestos last night, and you will be sure to get 100 by this mail for your own use. It would have been better to omit the London address on all Colonial copies and leave a blank for them to stamp their own in, but in such a whirlwind as lately one can't think of every damn thing.

Hobbs has let me down by failure to send the typed copy of my address to Candidates, and it and the original was handed to her on Friday last. I have retained a carbon copy of Book C and will keep it along with the other MSS for study, or send it by a later mail if wanted.

It cost 15/- to get up the sample copies of "Herb Dangerous" ~~to~~ I posted 2 before leaving London and with that and other things I was so nearly cleaned out I grudged even 2 carbons-only got one- I will see if Watkins will take this up. I'm afraid that in the present state of things Herbs are a Drug on the market.

My train was 5 hours late on Tuesday morning. Zepp(elin)s about again. We were in it on Saturday morning. Had been dining with Sister Mitchell home very late. Just as I had taken my jacket off, Mary came in, to stop me undressing. Guns firing like mad. Panic reigned! The lily livered Sir Geo-George forthwith lit his pipe and asked where his boots were, to go out and see the spectacle. But it was away at the other end, and fairly close to Hammond's house.

By the way its curious you never seemed to see my real reason in slanging you about McCarthy. The notion that 'hatred' would prevent my getting dhyana made me smile. But the notion that any connection with McA (Germany. T) would effectually bar our progress in the present (quite righteous) temper of the country is not so easily disposed of. Its common sense. I do not want to discourse lively any further on this topic. A simple statement of what good was effected by your writing in the McA journals (The Partie Fatherland and The International. T) would provide me with some thing to stop the mouths of ~~object~~ objectors, especially when we try to interest the Press.

Well I must stop, if only to leave that blighter G.M.C. a little time to inject nourishment into Brer Body. No epistles from Nairne (£5 notes. T) possible this mail. Love is the Law, Love under Will. Fraternally. F.O.

Lots of little things go unrecorded for sheer want of time

Undated. ? 1916.

Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

My weekend trip to London is over and has been worth while, and I am glad I decided to go at all costs, the little change and the long journey up, gave me some peace of mind. It will have been clear from recent letters that I have been and am not quite normal as regards nerves. For one thing I seemed to face to face for a time with blue ruin, and the anxiety is not on my own account alone. Then naturally my increased knowledge and the recent feeling of illumination has weighed heavily on me, owing to the realisation of its terrific responsibilities, and the situation in London whilst very satisfactory in many ways has rather dispirited me. I will hint why later on.

But (1) Althea's telegram about the MS reached me in a garbled form, the confirmation made all clear, she had really sent the Book IV MS. On seeing her in London she states that there were two registered packets, one she sent to the Bank, the other to Cooks, she mentioned the above in a p.s. in her letter to you. If its not at the Bank I can only imagine that it has been confiscated. It has never come back. By the way as nothing has been said to the contrary I assume that you have received all the packages of Manifestos etc sent? The printers would know how to conform to the regulations.

(2) The mystery about Hammond is cleared up. It was not what I supposed, there was no offence taken, but the poor chap is a walking mass of skin disease, it looks like eczema of some sort, and he is so tortured by itch that he threatens I am told to take his life. He is also very busy at present day, night and Sunday, but with all this he wont hear of giving up the job and is quite determined to finish it. There seem two courses open. (a) print the book (Liber C.T) and let him finish the steel blocks as he can. Its very difficult to get any clear information out of him, but so far as I understand he has completed 8 chapters. He states, that each line takes 8 hours to do, and the marvel is that he took such a terrific task upon him at all. Printing the Book cant be done without money, and the money is badly wanted for other things. Dont for goodness sake ask me to print it! I'm in a state in which an extra burden would kill me.

Course (b) would be for you to write H(ammond) a nice letter stating how urgent the need is and imploring him to finish the work. He promised to send me proofs of everything on Sunday, but of course failed to. I called again before I left but he was out and I could only leave a note. Personally I'd be in favour of course (b) as I'm sure he is really and honestly keen to complete the job. Its our eternal want of pence that's the root of the trouble. He really has done something and is entitled to a receipt for his yearly dues. I was awfully sorry for the poor chap and did my best to comfort him, but what could one do for him? He seems worn out too by want of sleep. Can you suggest a remedy? For one thing and another it is very trying that you are so far away and communication so slow.

(3) Greek Qabalah. Before I left London, a letter came that was a snarl, saying that whilst J.M. would be pleased to see me, I need not hope to get what I wanted, as he'd given it to a much greater Kabalist than Crowley. I expected to have a rotten time, but we got on capitally and had a pleasant forenoon, and liked the man. We parted on very good terms, but he is simply immovable and wont part on any consideration, with what he says is all his own life work. He showed me his MS, a very neat production, but certainly a huge labour to copy out, and which he wont do or permit. The only concession I could get out of this man of adamant was that he would put the other great Kabalist in communication with you, but I'm rather afraid that he may be a Mrs Harris.

Money, again, would settle the difficulty if we could send a transcriber to Spalding. One inducement to break at Peterborough was to add the cathedral to my 'collection'. These glorious old piles always have a charm for me.

(4) About London. The Lodge is an eminently satisfactory condition. There could hardly be a nicer set of people, All Mary's own friends, and all really paying. They are not cranks or even spiritualists, but all sorts, down to Scottish Presbyterians even, and obviously all very fond of her. Really, Mary (Davies) is turning out a jewel, as I get to know her better and we must never forget what is due to her for the intial start. She is really doing a lot of propaganda work, in connection with her lectures and dignified kind. She wishes me to tell you that she is absolutely at your disposal for such work, would even devote herself completely to it if desired. Its a different matter from what W {?-Wendram} suggested. I told her all about W and what my feeling about the proposal was, this altho' I knew he was quite a pet of hers, and she is always praising him. It may be mere prejudice on my part, owing to his (presumably de "olf.T) likeness to a 'specimen' I once knew, but certainly his letter can hardly impress one as wise or disinterested.

I wrote to him when in London, and boiled down my first letter into the fewest possible words, let Mary see and approve it, and asked her to keep an eye on the whole thing.

By the way that matter I made confession about was so slight that Mary does not even remember the incident, nor can recall any passage, to make certain however, I spoke of it as if it were something I had 'kidded' her about. This does not make my step any less careless, and I'm wary now, and avoided any talk with J.M. even at all, on our knowledge. (He invited a Dr Power to lunch, who seems to know you and asked after M(other) O(f) H(eaven), Kennedy and others. He seemed a good sort, and I'm sending the literature at his own request.

Its S(teff) L(angston) I'm uneasy about in the connection above. He is turning out such a sleuth hound! and his way of rushing into things and always exceeding his instructions is alarming me besides. I found e.g. he had reduced Althea to tears by trying to pump information about 33 (Avenue Studios) out of her, which she is too loyal to give. Mary Davies found this out and stopped it. I was amused to find that he has a sort of notice up, that all below VI degree are to write to you through him - You didn't tell him this did you? Of course I am putting him right. I'm trying to say just as little as I can, but I'm bound to ask you, now, to make something clear to S.L. if you have any regard for me. You have innocently put me in the position that I don't know what my left hand is doing and in the invidious position of having to write as above.

Its no good telling me I am the supreme authority, unless you impress on him that trifling fact which I am not troubling to remind him of, he wouldn't take it from me. I could judge from his letters that he is a good sort, and far on, but a hint that I have no official information as the the names and numbers of his members and so on, is worth while - What is he by occupation. S.L. is lucky: not tied to office ~~ours~~-as-- hours as I am. And at present I'm doing piffle at that

My feeling is that no magazine is likely to print that L.P.K. epistle as they would consider it as giving us a free advert. Thats why I thought of some publication of our own. We should really have to buy space otherwise. But as I had already said, at the commencement of my letter, the wise thing is to make the most of what is already printed. I have sent you six of the L.P.K. proofs. The style would disgrace the R.T.S. and I'm only sending them as of possible use as 'copy'. The properly set and printed production should

reach you shortly.

The printers of the tracts are not the people who can take risks. Terms cash. You must get at the Widow's Kruse again. I dont fancy printing the Eq(uinox) on tick, have too much fellow feeling for the poor printers.

You wonder why I should want a damn typewriter? You dont realise the extent of my correspondence, besides having a machine of my own, I see my way to hiring an occasional girl to come here and pound away. The Studio one was never stored and is now a mass of old iron. Althea only manages by borrowing one at her office. The one I've got is not precisely a Remington but it will do to practice on and one day I shall squander three Nairne Epistles (£5 notes ? T) on an A I Remington and save half the time. I'm continuing this serial at home and the non-Remington is a foot from my elbow, but the stilus habit is on me again. Nevertheless it is usually easier to play a tune on the non-Rem(ington) than to drag myself to the desk and force a stilus into my lazy and reluctant hand.

Tell M(other) O(f) H(eaven) for God's sake to take a stilus and call me a blithering fool or anything affectionate like that and end a Year of Silence. Its all because a blinking fool (term of endearment) was idiot (t of e) enough to show her what I'd rather have eaten a typewriter than have hurt her feelings with.

Sept 19

Didn't get done in time to post yesterday. I'm writing, of all people, to Bustace Miles, he seems interested. Tell you about it later. I haven't much time left and I've covered the ground pretty well. So I must come to the usual dead stop and simply sign myself

Ever fraternally. F.P.

(Note. Above from the pencilled ---- is part of a separate letter from the rest. T)

Undated ? 1916. First two pages missing.

My return home was greatly saddened by the news that my old friend Captain Nelson had been killed in France. I was much in contact with him in the years just before the war and learned to his unusual value as a man (huckstering was not his strong ~~side~~ side). When the war broke out, he instantly dropped and sacrificed everything, gave up his town house for a hospital and having been in the Yeomanry for years was at once an efficient fighting man. He was the most popular man of his time at Oxford, and would be there whilst you were at Cam(hridge). A quite unusually favoured life and character have ended in a glorious death, but another link with the past has snapped for me, and a light gone out of the place, for good.

You never mentioned if you got the Hymn to the American Republic printed over there, I expect so. The one in 'Winged B(eetle)' I cannot recall and my copy is not at hand at the moment. I can understand how hampered you must feel in not having the means to move about freely, and its a puzzle, why, so to speak, you are expected to make bricks, but left to find the straw.

Its all getting worse instead of better, living will soon be a serious problem and I seem in for running a free guest house. I have two just now, and the whole lot, inspired by Mary's accounts, would descend on me, but for the prohibitive fares. The Hawkes I hope to have, they were enormously kind to me. In Hammond's case I'll have to pay his fare, and one other. Poor H(ammond) will be the better of a holiday.

Whats better than money is that this week I had a chance to bind up the broken-hearted and to put new spirit into one of our new B(rethren). Its something of which you will fully approve one day.

I found all going rightly in London, Mary (Davies) has to keep a tight

hand, I think, to keep Wolfe from introducing Martinist touches. He signs himself-e.g. I noticed ~~✓~~ instead of III degree and a few appear to think this clever and follow suit. It wasnt worth while noticing, but on another point I told Mary that she must see that in the I degree, the I.b. is really not nominally b, the preparing officer to explain the symbolism to the candidate. (Obvious exceptions permissible at the Lodge M(aster)'s discretion.

They do love swank! Officers now have Templar cloaks-correct enough I suppose? I dont know everything. When I took my seat in the first I degree reception, my gravity was in some danger, at the spectacle of a certain B(rother) sitting solemnly in the gown you used to wear for the 'Phoenix' with his Mason's apron and collar over it.

By the way I'm an ignorant A.G. J (? T) G and youd better tell me what are the proper gee-gaws to wear, to assert dignity. I never thought! but they lent me a blue collar and apron. H(ammond) has a VI degree sash etc at home, that would make S(teff)L(angston) green with envy. The latter has been spoken to about misusing the A.A. robe, but---- I fear nonessentials get mistaken for essentials.

But on the whole I think all goes wonderfully well, and a good and firm foundation is being built. Olney turned up by the way, I had pictured him as a grey-beard. I saluted him as due to one of the Old Guard.

Personally, I'm well, merely getting rid of the remnants of a cold, and I feel more braced up. I dont feel however that no fresh troubles are ahead. Youve had a pretty tough time and I wish that some 'funeral' of sorts would comeon.

It will be too late this mail (I am writing early) to let you know the results of this afternoon's interview. Something will depend on the lawyer's advice. Well, I must stop, I hope M(other) O(f) H(eaven) is all right? All salutations and good wishes to you both. Love is the law, love under will. (I have re-read the Canon of the Mass, before sending it off)

Ever fraternally. Geo M Cowie.

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Oct. 8-12. ? 1916

Care Frater.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

If you had not warned me that he was a crusty customer, Fra J.M., I should have wondered what old Hun ogre you had let loose on me. Behold the enclosed epistle. Perhaps he did not want it sent on, but the personal bit will only amuse you. It is piffle about posting the MS as I specially said some way might be devised of receiving it personally from his hands whilst I was in London-Well at least he has kept the pamphlets, and saved the extra penny.

I've finished a long letter to S(teff) L(angston), one to Mary (Davies) for their jo'int guidance, and a copy of part of the S(outh) A(frican) letter, to indicate the policy now being pursued, and that all the Lodges must begin to contribute to G(rand) L(odge). By the way I think it would be a good rule that all initiation fees and annual dues of those above V degree should be paid direct to the G(rand) T(reasurer) General (i.e. Cowie. T) Colonial Lodges should not rely on these for local expenses. They should rely for such on the dues for minor grades, remitting what is left over to G(rand)L(odge). This rule, naturally, would be a little elastic at the outset, but should be understood to be the regulation thing to do.

S.L. wrote about a matter I dont approve of. When he was in London last week, Hammond interviewed him and tried to get him to agree to take a large

house of which he would occupy part and pay half the rent. Neither S.L. nor M(ary) D(avies) like this idea and it would cause all sorts of complications. I said to tell him (Hammond) that although doubtful about it, I was ready to meet him half way at the outset, he had months to look for a house and did nothing. Further a proposition of this sort must be clearly for the advantage of the Order. A person making such a proposal should not only satisfy us of his absolute ability to pay his share, but even of being able to help out, if our own funds were deficient. In the choice of new and extra central premises, probably in a year, we are not going to be hampered by regard to the interests of individual members. If we are in a position to take a full sized house, and a resident is advisable, H(ammond) will get first offer, but that's all. I won't agree, for a moment, on any other terms - I am certain we should be 'left'. The Davies have done a lot for him, even to helping to set him up in business. Mary is indignant, however, because lately she purposely introduced him to some 'good' people and he repaid her by promptly borrowing fifty pounds of them. This is the piece of tittle-tattle I crossed out in a recent letter, but it's pertinent here. There is great indignation, too, because he has contemptuously refused offers of Government work at £5 a week, giving as the reason that 'if' work came in as it should, he could make £30 a day - I don't think!

I wrote to S(outh) A(frica) in the precise terms you indicated. I have given M(ary) D(avies) a partial copy of the contents, to show her and S(teff) L(angston) the policy in force now, and that the other Lodges will be made to fall in line. I heartily agree that certain things should not remain a dead letter. I knew nothing about the Australian VII degrees. I could not ask Stansfield Jones for his initiation fees without your instructions, when I sent him the MS (D.N.D) and it rather made a farce if none in the higher grades pay anything at all to G(rand) L(odge). Rough, too on those who do pay the minor grades. Nous avons change tout cela?

In this connection, I was rather sore when Mary mentioned as a fact that H(ammond) had been promised all the grades and a money payment for doing what might have been done (without danger) by ordinary type punch-cutters. This may have been necessary as a proper safeguard of the Knowledge, but it's decidedly rough on the G(rand)T(reasurer)G(eneral) and unfair to those who do help by paying. S.L. asks what is to be done about Althea, A.W. and Hammond. I say he can call them honorary members. I don't think it is right that those who contribute nil should share in the full privileges, there should be some clear understanding about this, or later, trouble will arise. It was unavoidable at the start I dare say.

I have now had time to consider things and am sending the J.B.Mason Epistle (to L.B.K.) to be printed. I should be able to pay the first two now and it seems safe. Sending the M.S. to editors means months of delay, better to print it and give permission to copy it by the press generally. The pity of too little money is that it would be a great economy of postage if I could send it along with other pamphlets, but it will take some time to send round the Press, and I may have copies soon.

It all feels rather futile. One wants thousands and all one's time, to do things properly. However, the only thing is to do one's possible, and leave the event where it is sure. A high class monthly with a big Review list and fee (? free) list is what we want.

By way of Record.

It is really premature, as I haven't had time to study the papers properly thoroughly, or puzzle out certain points, but I want to jot down something about the Knowledge. The general feeling is of happiness and satisfaction at

house of which he would occupy part and pay half the rent. Neither S.L. nor M(ary) D(avies) like this idea and it would cause all sorts of complications. I said to tell him (Hammond) that although doubtful about it, I was ready to meet him half way at the outset, he had months to look for a house and did nothing. Further a proposition of this sort must be clearly for the advantage of the Order. A person making such a proposal should not only satisfy us of his absolute ability to pay his share, but even of being able to help out, if our own funds were deficient. In the choice of new and extra central premises, probably in a year, we are not going to be hampered by regard to the interests of individual members. If we are in a position to take a full sized house, and a resident is advisable, H(ammond) will get first offer, but that's all. I won't agree, for a moment, on any other terms - I am certain we should be 'left'. The Davies have done a lot for him, even to helping to set him up in business. Mary is indignant, however, because lately she purposely introduced him to some 'good' people and he repaid her by promptly borrowing fifty pounds of them. This is the piece of tittle-tattle I crossed out in a recent letter, but it's pertinent here. There is great indignation, too, because he has contemptuously refused offers of Government work at £5 a week, giving as the reason that 'if' work came in as it should, he could make £30 a day - I don't think!

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having reached this point (tho' not the ultimate point) My impression was that the previous documents gave the Gaian rather than the Ouranian aspect, and what I wanted was to get ~~the~~ at the aspect of the matter from the upper plane, as it were, and to comprehend better wherein its holiness consists. Now I am more satisfied, it reconciles many things and more pieces of the puzzle get fitted into their correct place. It is also more consonant with my own nature to follow out the holiness aspect of the thing. Naturally, I understand the substance of the Sacrament, but not the still mysterious third thing, nor even how properly to conjoin the first two. And in this connection, it has always seemed to me to be inferred that somehow the blood of the Moon, or of that rose which is now white, now red, plays a part, how, or just why, I dont know.

The Trigram of the Order, I seem to see plainly what it conveys. More striking this if the letters are imagined as moveable and the tau capable of being turned with the shaft upwards. Deity

I can only infer in a rough way that the three principles of Duty are equivalent to what on the material plane we may call sowing, Bearing, the Fruit, all these apparently separate things being but one thing and by the operation of One.

I have taken a step nearer the comprehension of how Deus est homo, and of one's own Divine nature—Much more I might say but the Old Enemy-Time, forbids Gratitude is not forgotten. More! when I've really got the pearl detached from the Oyster.

F.P.

(Steff) Langston sent me drafts of 2 notices he proposed to put up. (1) About the books in Library. (2) Each member to contribute 6d towards entertainment after meetings. I added to this a note to candidates to remind them that the ancient and immemorial custom that they entertain their initiators to a 'banquet' is to be adhered to, but that in our present circumstances it will be regarded as good form to provide the very simplest form of entertainment, as for example cakes and Dandelion—I kicked at the lavishness when I was up, as it was charged, I discovered, when I got the Report, to Lodge Funds. They meant well, but—"don't do it again"—I made out a third notice as to the duty of members to help to distribute the literature—It is apt to scare them, and I have said that there is no call for the foolish zeal of the ordinary tract distributor, and that there are many ways of quietly and unostentatiously spreading the Law.

I enclose S.L.'s latest letter acknowledging inter alia the receipt of your Astrological commission. In other matters I feel myself fortunate to have secured so valuable and sound-headed a helper. I dont know yet whom he means by important people. If I could only get their addresses I'd have sent the tracts to people like Edward Carpenter, Cunningham Graham, and so on. Can you suggest any way more, specially? I'm sending out I naturally mentioned your name, in the case of Shirley, Austin Harrison and.

The Boleskine cheque has now come. I shall enclose two 'Epistles' (£5 notes.) or for safety one this week and one next week. (Brother Claypole is active near you) The amount you will understand is now £27-10 per quarter. I've already sent you 10 in advance, 10 above and should manage 10 in Nov. After that we'll 'do our best' for you — as I've already said, heavy expenses come on at the year-end.

I've paid the bill for printing the last two 'tracts', I feel safe for the J.B. Mason one, especially as I'm not rubricating this one. The cost of these two inclusive carriages came to £14—a good deal more than in pre-war days.

London is paying the actual removal costs but they can't relieve me of

the storage charges yet. They seem hopeful of being able to take larger premises next year, and that will be a considerable burden off me. It would not be wise at present, to demand contributions to G(rand) I(edge). It depends on how many new people they get to join. A man in London I meant to secure-art editor of the Graphic has just died. He went out to see one of these magnificent pyrotechnic displays with which kind brother Noah (the Germans, T) at vast expense regales the London populace; got pneumonia and passed.

H(ammond) in spite of promises has sent no proofs or anything, so I have O to enclose. In spite of his delinquencies which seem mainly to arise from a curious lethargy he is certainly absolutely loyal and devoted and for that much may be forgiven. I had a serious talk with, or rather to, him and am sure he is trustworthy, save where keeping a promise is concerned.

Another letter from Fra Psi (in Greek. T) Not very encouraging as far as taking a helpful interest in concerned-Enclosed.

I had to write Stansfield Jones this week. I thought it wise to send him a copy unofficially and informally of the S(outh) A(frican) letter, making it clear that I had no instructions to do so, that I know his financial difficulties, and that it is not pointed at him. Without hurting his feelings, it will make the new policy clear.

Well I must close, lots of things get omitted which are not to be regarded as not attended to. Time is the enemy. Love is the Law, Love under will.

Fraternally. F.P.

Portrait of Proteus! arrived this a.m. Oct 12. You do look fit.

Undated scrap.

Oh no, I wasn't taking an exception to the confident tone style of the new Manifesto. It pre-supposes the existence of a powerful organisation already active, instead of a mere handful of people in London which is all that is visible in the outer circle. But it would have been futile to admit this. The confident tone is right and necessary, and there was nothing I would alter. Besides in time all will become truer and truer.

The improvement on the old one is that it does not emphasise matters, which, however true, the man in the street receives with a smile and a tendency to regard us as charlatans. This has been avoided in the new one. I explain to a man that not I, but They, possess the Philosopher's Stone, then I catch him regarding thoughtfully, say, the hole in the seat of my breeks.

Hope you got the two copies of Liber C all right. There was an omission or two I now remember, which you will easily catch up. Latin and Greek sentences.

I 4 Oct. ? 1916.

Care Frater

Do what thou wilt sl shall be the whole of the Law.

Your turn to be victimised by my attempts to master the typewriter. There! that is not too bad for a beginning. But it is difficult to compose a letter whilst I have painfully to think which key of for D and which for A and which m and where the devil in N, and remember to space, and all that sort of thing. But we are creeping on. And I've sent quite a few almost readable letters and can make copies at a pinch and already it is pleasanter than writing. You will have to have this, warts and all.

I want to say that I don't like the get up of the O.T.O. manifesto at all, the printers set the whole thing complete without showing a specimen

par. I was in a hurry to have proofs whilst I was in London I felt I could not afford more than eight pages: as a matter of fact it requires sixteen to display the matter properly in bold type. I shall not reprint it in this form, but it serves immediate purposes. It should really be a booklet however and embody some more matter from the original manifesto, the first page is particularly ugly, nearly as bad as the green cover of the said manifesto.

From the same cause the setting of the J.B.K. Epistle is a failure, and I have ruthlessly scrapped it. Setting it now, exactly as the 'Law of Liberty' but eight pages. Got a dozen pulls for immediate use and send you a few, as likely to be useful for offering to Reviews etc.

About the china egg. I have not had time to arrange with a lawyer to draw up a deed of gift or whatever it is that is legally required. You had better advise. I am buying something. I saw advertised a 'Brick Safe' It is just a ~~kind~~ cheap kind of small iron strong box. I have not had a really safe place to keep the MSS in hitherto. I shall send S(teff) L(angston) a duplicate key so that in case of accident he can come and secure all the papers. You should note that the mortgage paper on Boleskine has always been kept in a sealed package addressed to you, so as to avoid trouble in case of my death at any time.

One bother is that to tide us better over what I hoped would have been ended sooner, I have not paid my share of my step-sisters board for two years nearly, but instead have allowed her slender capital to be dipped into and it will by no means last for ever. Poor woman, she has an iron constitution and may herself live for ever. I had hoped to pay some of this by now, but had not bargained for all this printing. By the way, rather than fresh printing, it will be wise to spend on making the most of what we have now, i.e. advertising it and paving the way for fresh matter. At the same time as people are unable to imagine for themselves the results of a world ruled by the Law of Thelema I suggest a paper under some such title as "The World to Come". This no doubt is implied by- in the Manifesto, what I am thinking of is some more general and popular essay that will make people study the Manifesto itself.

Not sure that I've not been 'done' over that typewriter. Never mind, when I've battered it to pulp I will dump it on some one for five pounds

Oct 18

Your long letter of no date whatever arrived this a.m. in time to be answered. It now takes over a month to get replies, either it is the delay caused by the examination of mails, or I miss the mail I suppose myself to be catching.

By suspending with lunch I shall be able to refer to your points categorically and get this one ~~away~~ early (There's nothing to grouse about, really, lunch is always a very movable feast, and a cup of tea is brought me regularly every afternoon.)

(1) About the Manifesto, absolutely the best point is the one more specifically explained in the Epistle to L.B.K., that the higher a man's rank and authority the less material reward he should receive. This should be consistently carried out amongst ourselves. I shouldn't mind being a victim, and you will sternly be relegated to Wild Woodbines and Dandelion. It should solve the biggest social problem.

(2) I quite agree about M(ary) D(avies). She's a good soul and a good sort altogether, and her gift, which appears to amount to ability to knock about on the plane next to the material, is quite genuine. But I quite recognise that when it comes to 'good' people we can't have it supposed that

the whole show is directed from by a Regent Str clairvoyant, no offence to Mary meant. Then, she's apt to get a bit noisy. Very little wine excites her, and I had to lift a warning finger on one occasion, when the proofs of the Manifesto were being read to the assembled B(rethren) after Lodge. We ought to be able to get away from Regent St in a year. I wish I could get on really friendly terms with Dora (Vogt) and help to push her on myself. When she is Y degree, I could diplomatically explain to M(ary) D(avies) that honours should go round and also that we want her (M.D.) to have a rest, so Dora and A.W.A(nna) W(right) if we can get her, might control things.

We shall always owe Mary a lot for this start. I dont really see how at all I could have managed anything without her willing help, and even then should have done little without S(teff) L(angston). It was such a relief to find we had at least one man of his type-At the time I was dismantling 33 (Avenue Studios), I knew of no one save Hammond, and for obvious reasons, I kept religiously out of his way-It would only have meant irritation. But when it can be done without hurt to her feelings, we must try to form quite a new Lodge with a less poaty (sic.T) designation, or more simply, make the new premises Grand Lodge.

(3) Your suggestion as to raising a combination in this place is no good-utterly useless unless spread over the whole printing trade. The noblest of the handicrafts, no trade is so subject to rulonous and cut-throat competition. It is par excellence a subject for a Guild, the difficulty is always the small master, or the sneaks who, e.g. set up a press of their own on Loch Ness side, to work on the cheap.

(4) Althea, in spite of hustling, does not seem to have got at the MSS yet (Book IV, 4 etc) but I hope you'll have them by this mail. I know too well the difficulty of digging things out and the expense. V(oice) of S(ilence) Commentary-see letter. She has section I only. I have II and III here, but can't move until she sends her portion as style and size for the remainder.

(5) S(teff) L(angston) . Even with permission, it would be some time before I let him read D.N.D. One wants to be quite sure. He's perhaps too old to be considered my 'heir' in the Knowledge? I was wondering. I will keep in mind what you say, but he is content and interested for the present.

Gerald "ae Fraser's last letter was not very encouraging, but I replied wishing to keep up a friendly correspondence. I shall make the L.B.K. Epistle an excuse to write again and try to interest him. I dont know just what his attainments or grade of knowledge are. It is manifest that he cant give us any active help at present, but monetary would be as good.

(6) Braidwood. I hope hes not a fair specimen of the S(outh) A(frican) B(rethren) In London he asked me, when I gave him a copy of the L(aw) of L(iberty), who Nuit was. Was it the French word for night? I've heard from him this week, nothing in it, but I am making him useful looking up addresses for me at his club. I didnt think of G.B.S(haw) whose works I only know of by hearsay, but I thought I could interest Wells, Brdbie Innes, and such. His letter was curiously full of adulation of my h(igher ?) K(nowledge ?) and "a little lady who brightens everything". He caught me huddled in a heap at the foot of the stair case with this Illumination on top of me. Its a neighbour's wife, h K had let her in just as I was coming down stairs. She hadnt seen me for weeks and rushed at me as she would do, even where her husband there. I mischievously pretended to be overwhelmed and collapsed backward. Down she came on top of me, and Braidwood unexpectedly emerged from the parlour upon this touching scene.

(6) Adulation? Oh thats all right. You dont get enough from me, certainly to do you any damage.

(7) Change not the style of a letter? I was very particular and rather nonplussed when you yourself altered little Capital(s) to caps in "Love is etc. However I conclude that quotations didn't matter and left it at that. But I should have gone on as I were.

As mentioned I sent Stansfield Jones a rough copy of the South African letter, but was careful to take all sting out of it by stating that I had no instructions to send it, that it was merely a copy to enlighten him as to the general policy and that I was quite aware of his difficulties.

(Note. Remainder possibly part of another letter.)

To revert yet again to that very tough mutton the Bro(ther) (note this is all to do with A.C.'s pro-German activities.) there's something inexplicable to me in your attitude. I've always appreciated your freedom from snobbery. But to defend the un-sportsmanlike, the 'no gentleman' the liar from sordid self interest I couldn't expect from you, nor do I believe it. I don't care an iron cross for the ha'penny papers, our Brother Noah Von Claypole's own words condemn him. The origin of the feud may be as you say, I don't know, but that isn't the point whatever. I can in a way understand your indifference to individual suffering. As you may see it, it's all a game of God playing with himself, so to speak: the Comedy of Pan. But there doesn't seem any good reason to defend and cheer on the inflictor of suffering and say all his meanness is but an invention of the ha'penny press.

My feeling is that it can only do us harm and stop progress here, if we are regarded as pro-MacArthyites. That's certain and that's all. I've already apologised handsome for any apparent and unintentional insults to the Order, but isn't your 'getting your shirt out' an admission that you the vilest insult nowadays is to call any one a MacArthy?

This is not very coherent I'm afraid racing to finish these notes, lunch time nearly up, and Brer Belly going unsatisfied and mail time at hand. Sanctify MacArthy! But of course what your real attitude is, I dunno, I hope for the best.

26 Oct 1916
Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

No letter from you this a.m. and I am now merely writing a preface to the usual collection of disjointed notes written at various odd times through the week. P.C. from Althea to say she has sent off the Book IV, 4 MS, and I've wired to her to send off the Anahalonium papers etc as well.

Another note from Fra Psi (Greek, or possibly this time the astrological sign for Herchell.) yesterday, of no importance, and a letter from M(ary) D(avies) which I enclose just to let you see how well things are going. That about dear Brer Wolf is merely that I commented on how odd it was that H(ammond) was so friendly after the strong feeling against him he expressed to me. I am glad that W is all right, but M(ary) D(avies) is so liable to overflow into sloppy sentiment and I even remember dear Sister Cremers. I remain cautious. I am sending the Przival epistle (my pounded out copy) to her today, keeping the original till I can get Althea to make copies. This is explained in the scraps. I've had about the fullest week yet, and have again no time for 'record'. Sunday I diverged and invoked the great demon Silas-wegg. Result enclosed. Bad metre, but motif all right?

I had a note from W and W stating that Mrs B(rooke) was offering £2000 for Boleskine. I replied non-chalantly that I would not even trouble my colleagues with that offer, and that personally, I should not agree to it. If they make a formal offer of not less than 3000, then I might cable. But I

expect you'll not be eager. Ask 4,000.

W. and W will draw up a form of deed of gift for No 14 (Glenisla Gardens, Cowie's house, which presumably he was making over to the O.T.O. T

I though the enclosed (I hope) letter from Eustace Miles splendid. He's obviously interested keenly and I'm playing the fish for all I'm worth. He writes most seriously.

You should get 200 copies of the L.B.K. Epistle this or the next mail. I forgot to say that the proofs sent, in imperfect form, were unconnected, being only for temporary use. The mistakes you would notice are corrected in the 8 page epistle. It looked so odd with merely the Epistle heading that I thought it well for appearance sake to add a title. In one sentence of the epistle, you suddenly relapse into the first person, making it clear that the writer is the Founder himself. This may have been an intentional slip, but I judged it better to alter it to the third person. There being no time to consult you, I must even use my own judgement and initiative. The final formula is correctly lettered.

I regard this pamphlet as the most useful for introducing the subject and making people interested enough to ask for the other tracts.

I duly had a note from Vanco over of the new Libri numerals and will attend. I was a little surprised at the duplicate of a letter to myself being inclosed but soon saw your object - to inform S(tansfield) J(ones) in a delicate way of the new rigours of the game. As you know I had the same thought - my letter was all right, but I'm writing again specially nicely this week and to S(outh) A(frica) too, I hope.

I am now sending Little Willie - my Williams typewriter to 93 (Regent St) M(ary) D(avies) is obviously fed up with Althea and embarrassed how to get rid of her. I have therefore informed Althea that I want a new arrangement, I will resume her old retaining ag fee, plus 20/- more, £2 a month. She will occupy the little office (10ft to 12.30) and attend to O.T.O. work only, and do all the typewriting, copies etc that I require. It will work out quite as cheaply in the long run. Then she will attend to sales, and try to extend them, be free to go to the Depository when things are wanted and so on. She's been precious little use of late, really. It makes a fresh hole in my monthly expenses, and will in effect reduce Epistles from Nairne (cash remittances. T), but next year the 93ers should be able to pay half her 'salary'. M(ary) D(avies) says she is paid quite a living wage for her afternoon work.

I've sent M.D. the Minerval and I degree 'lectures'. I was getting typed copies made on strong paper, but the person who undertook this has failed me and they can now be done by Althea. M.D. asks for II and III? Are there such? I don't remember any. We have the IV degree Mystical Lecture all right. If we had the V degree Ritual could not the three V's work it?

Mary enclosed a note from Dennes (A.G.'s solicitor. T) without any further information. I've said nothing about this matter as I assume she kept you informed. Personally I don't see why she went to Dennes at all, when she could do nothing. Means more 6/8ds.

I'd better sign this now and leave a space for p.s. before posting, if I have time or if I remember any omission of importance. By the way M.D. sent me a cutting from a Ha'penny paper. Some questionable spy sort of business in which a certain George Raffalovich is mixed up.

Letter from Braidwood, nothing in it. He has not managed the author's etc addresses yet. I think of H.G. Wells, Brodie Innes, Rider Haggard etc. The Fire is beginning to attack the Wood and we are getting up Steam as well.

All good wished. Love is the Law, love under will. Vale. Fraternally
F.P.

9 Nov .? 1916. Supplementary
Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

I might not have had a chance at lunch time today, I am rushing some work. So I posted the long screed to make siccar. I now make up a few minor omissions.

(I) M(ary) D(avies) never omits an eulogy of Bro Wolfe who certainly seems to be doing well and showing great modesty. I am going to suggest that as a compliment, she should invite him to read the letter to Reelfs which you sent to be read in Lodge. Quite suitable as he's Continental himself. His love and admiration the TH (In Greek. For Therion. T) she says are splendid.

I'm in a difficulty as to say what to say as to who the writer was, as I'm bound to take the rule about none below VIII degree as binding. Of course I shall guess at once, but I'll merely say a 'Great Continental Brother'. I made a great point about letting little honours like this go all round and not be monopolised.

M(ary) D(avies) writes that she and E(ustace) M(iles) are great pals. Well how did she know he was in communication with me - I must assume that he wrote to her. I do want to land this fish, but meanwhile I've taken him at his word and dropped writing till he 'asks for' it. It's better not to seem too eager.

I'll hint to her that of someone complains that a Bad Man from the North has wiped the floor with him, she is to smile inside herself, aware that I can do this with my cheek in my tongue, only she not to give this away.

Remarks on the IX degree no t very illuminating but of course I didn't expect a treatise. Remarks in t he long letter will show however that illumination is arising. I never found ti me to jot down some real efforts at experiment I made in the early part of the year under favourable circumstances. But I had to stop. Danger was loss of liberty and to a not too intellectual person. I haven't looked lately at the progress of the stuff. Nothing happened. The exp(erience) was surp rising in one way More life in the old (eriment)

dog than I'd imagined. I'm afraid I rather expected something Paracelsian to result. But I know so little I didn't hermetically seal the ~~beetle~~ vessel, so its no good.

I am quite aware that I do make and shall make mistakes, and no bones about it. I wrote to Hammond informing him that I had received the final pages for C and would send them on, as soon as I could take a copy for my reference set, and meanwhile would let me know if he was ready for them, and if possible send the long promised proofs. This was Friday and characteristically the only reply is Stainless Silence, so far (Wed).

STOP PRESS NEWS. No word from Hammond, S.L. YOU. Thu. 16th.

If Hammond proves hopeless best way would be for me to write the MS in transfer ink and print 12 copies or so from stone on Jap vellum (Type-writing is too fugitive) By mixing up the order of pages and leaving blinds to be filled in by hand after printing, little danger of leakage would arise. But this means time.

Time to say chin-chin. Love is the Law, love under will, so also pretty Fanny-sanctify her eyes-has shown herself totally unworthy of affection, I send her some.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order and filially. George M Cowie. VIII degree

(Note. Last section from below pencilled ---
is the end of some previous letter. T)

G.T.C.

1000 Liber C dispatched to you. not sure if I said Texas but think so

A telegram to Cowie.

15 Nov 1916.

Anna (Wright) received all letters nervous breakdown recovering intentions good 46 Greencroft Gardens N.W. Davies.

Cowie to A.C.

28 Nov 1916.

Most Worshipful Most Oly Most Illustrious and Most Illuminated Father
Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

This letter is most unexpectedly to myself in the nature of a penitential confession. It relates to something that happened in Sep last which at the time I thought nothing of, nor dreamed it necessary to mention. It happened that whilst trying to go to sleep on Sunday night last, whilst much depressed by recent troubles, it suddenly dawned on me, or rather burst like a bombshell that I had quite innocently done something, that now looks like the enormity of having broken my oath, tho' at the time being, it seemed no more than what I have often done, pointed to the Grand Arcanum as being expresses in the Smaragdine Tablet. It was at the time that I was getting Liber C typed in London. I explained to Mary (Davies) that this was quite allowable, the text being just as incomprehensible to a stranger as an alchemical book. Unfortunately to illustrate this I pointed to the identical section in Liber 333, to show how non-understandable the matter was. There is no fear of her seeing any meaning in it, but it was a most unpardonable and stupid thing to do. I did not realise that I had obtained the information from the very MS I had just sworn to guard. When I happened to think of it the other night I nearly leaped out of my bed and the thought has been a veritable torture since.

The only course is to make full confession and await what may befall. Other troubles seemed dwarfed to nothing, yet I have to set to work to make my mistakes right, or rather to try to.

29 Nov.

No letter last week again which I take it means that you are overburdened. I've been feeling vexed at not being able to send you any of the less verbose epistles (5£ notes .T.) and situated as you are it may be trying. So I've thought out a ways and means and by making a small sacrifice I enclose a Nairne (25 note.T) and will, as a minimum, manage to send you the same monthly-more when possible.

I've been almost ill for a week, feels like nerve depression. A worry about business, and other things has rather pulled me down.

There's no reply from H(ammond) at all-My last letter, a specially nice one, as I began to see that the trouble must be that he has taken offence because we could not entertain his proposition about making a house. (I blame myself for not having made a more 'diplomatic' reply, to keep him sweet) has produced no reply. On this account and for other reasons I think of going up to London at once if I can not officially but as an ordinary visitor. By the way in case of any accident to myself at any time the VII degree and other MSS are in a small iron box in the cabinet in my parlour, the key will be found with a little search in the same cabinet. In case of fire they would perish the box not being fire proof. There is no duplicate key, so I make this memo for you. I have had to let things rest a bit and be content with what I've done so far.

30th. Thursday.

No letter this morning. If one comes I won't get it till late at night. I can't make up my mind about London, as things are, here, it would be wiser to wait for the January holiday. That idea of mine of lithographing Book C is now in

now impracticable.

I hope all is well with you. Today for a wonder is bright and sunny and I'm going out for a walk, now, and to try and get rid of some of the cobwebs out of my brain. Some of this trouble has come on me out of trying to do right, but not being clever enough to foresee results.

Has the Word ~~of-the-Equator~~ come? One longs for a gleam of sunshine in all this welter of depression. I'm well enough but have got the Blues, which is wrong. Love is the law love under will, so with love as always, tho' a scotch man is shy of expressing it, I am, fraternally yours

Geo M Cowie

M(ary) D(avies) is a brick. I've just had a most sensible and touchingly friendly letter, and all is Pax as far as she is concerned. And the mate at which the Lodge is growing is due to her

2 Dec. ? 1916. (Almost certainly 1915.T)

Care Frater.

This is mail day and I enclose 3 fresh proofs that came this morning as also Hammond's letter. I can manage to pay the slaughtermen (? printers.T) another instalment or two till we hear from you, after that! I was startled to find that I had overdrawn my account about £12 so that it was only my happening to have between £9 and 10 extra at end of Nov that saved the situation. I have been confidant of hearing from Dennes every morning and have not written to ask how things are as each letter I daresay means six and eightpence added to the bill. No other news.

The impression is growing on me that I have now the clue to the First Matter of the Stone and what the athanor is, so that I am re-reading Levi in a less exasperated way and can ~~express~~ dispose of some of his 'blinds'. It is clear enough now why the Secret could not be communicated to the vulgar and so on, and further pondering may open the veil still more.

I will show compassion on you by making this letter mercifully short. I hope all is well and I remain, yours fraternally.

F.P.

16 Dec. ? ~~1916~~ (Almost certainly 1915.T) ? 1914.

Care Frater

I was greatly disconcerted to get so short a letter from you and to find that you had not received the long one I wrote to you at the Wolcott. It enclosed proofs of the Agape plates as far as done, proof of the frontispiece etc. It touched on several important matters, all of which I wanted a reply to and I should not like it to fall into any hands but yours, as altho' guarded it referred rather openly to the VII degree knowledge. I thought it worth while to ~~try-and~~ cable so that you might try to get hold of it without delay. IO bob alas!

The Boleskine lease is not yet signed so far as I know, the draft has been adjusted however. I was greatly hampered by your absence, and by not knowing exactly the result of your final negotiations with Dr M Leslie. The only trouble is that we are let in for a good deal of repairs. It is ~~wise~~ in any case to have them done and a matter of policy to concede what we can and make Mrs Brook more agreeable to do her share. I expect we've caught a bit of a tartar. She not only insisted on the repairs to the drains etc but took exception to the rent being payable in advance. This is usual with a furnished house and I instructed the lawyers to say so and to retain the words 'in advance' but to say that we would leave the advance payment optional and

I expect she will just pay up.

There wont be much left out of the first quarters rent. The drains have been surveyed and the absolutely necessary repairs will cost over £16 including new W.C. basins etc. There are falling roofs (? T) slates off etc etc. which it is our interest to put right at once. I will only agree to the £16 meanwhile. I want to know exactly what was agreed between you and Mrs B(rook) as to this question of repairs. The lawyers state she will probably do a great deal to put the house in order, presumably internally.

I am cleared out for this month and could only send Hammond 30/- last Monday, and can do no more. We are not far off the £30 and I asked Hammond to arrange with the slaughterman to do something on tick till we heard from you.

I have papers for 3 separate taxes on Boleskine which I cannot pay till my next months pay. These must be got disposed of. The studio (33 Avenue Studios) ~~to~~-~~quite~~-~~time~~- rent is quite impossible as far as I'm concerned unless Mrs B(rook) pays up in advance. As the landlord refused transfer of lease, he can whistle for his rent as far as I'm concerned.

You've told Mother I hope that the ~~State~~ Studio effects can't be seized? I wanted her to come to Edinburgh for a bit, thought you would be back quite soon and that it would be more comfortable for her.

I have done 'non possible' now. There's nothing but a small reserve sum which I make a point of honour for you not to ask for unless its to save the 3 of us from starvation. For the moment I am ~~am~~ reduced to living from hand to mouth at a time when I might easily find myself before long workless. Fortunately the firm are holding on wonderfully so far.

In case my first letter does not turn up, I mentioned that your cheque for £6 was returned 'refer to drawer' and that helped to cripple me as I paid Hammond £6 more than I was prepared for. I've only a little time left if I'm to catch the mail (writing in my lunch hour ~~as~~-~~to~~-~~is~~) I think I've mentioned all the more important matters.

That reminds me re members subscriptions. I think that is the most graceful thing to do, and will be about the same in the end, as really those who do pay are the exception. But alas for me - I do not want any printers bills to pay and Mother and I may manage to write the circulars between us, but a great lot after all.

You write cheerfully enough and I hope you 'see gold' ahead, though I don't see how it is to come out of merely setting up an American branch. But all right if a Rockefeller or Astor comes in. Excuse this dry letter. I hope the missing letters will turn up all right. Let me hear please.

Fraternally F.P.

Dec 5,6,7, 1916.

Care Frater.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law,

I was very glad to get your letter last Friday (the day after I posted my last) but was rather dashed to find that after all you were not comfortably fixed up for the winter. Glad I managed that Nairne. A lot however depends on London being in possession of a surplus this quarter. There will be, I think, £10 legitimately due to you from sale of books, I have just heard, and I am going to warn S(teff) L(angston) as I have warned Althea that sales of books are not to be regarded as Lodge funds. Sales may grow.

Your second letter followed on Monday last. I liked very much your letter to E(ustace) M(iles), it should 'fetch' him, it is just the right tone. About H(ammond) as it is no use writing to him, I have determined to go up to London this week-end and insist on his seeing me. If I find that he has not done as promised, I will rescue the engraved 'picture' plates and send them

over to you-or I will compete the two extra drawings and get ordinary half tone plates made to save delay and expense. They could be done on steel another day and are not of the most vital importance. The photograph I got of 2 is very good but Bowdlerised. I will put in myself from the Naples book a suggestion, slight enough to keep the plate makers from kicking. These two plates must just be regarded as makeshifts. If you say how many prints and what size of page, I could get photogravure impressions, to avoid using coated paper. H(ammon) has certainly got some of the steel blocks made, I will try to get on his reasonable side and see if he cannot be induced to finish the whole thing off in reasonable time. I'd offer to pay a workman for him, but the money difficulty is no insuperable till next year. My visit depends on permission from the firm to go, and I haven't as yet got a reply.

When returning it would be quite a simple matter to break at Peterborough and go on to Spalding, 16 miles, so I've written to Fra J.M. to suggest that if he likes I might pay him a flying visit. I understand your feeling and have put it to him that in these days the existence of a duplicate copy (of his Greek Qabala. T) would be very comfortable feeling for all concerned.

Did you by the way get the first portion of Voice of Silence? Althea is getting on with the rest.

It's been a very heavy weight on my mind, that slip I mentioned, and I'll feel better when I've done what I can to blot it out -as if casually but decisively.

Eng(lish) Rev(iew) has returned A.W. Epistle, declined. I was by no means convinced that Grahame and Carpenter lived in London: the former is a nomad.

A new worry cropped up a few days ago. I now feel that my instinct about lupus in fabula (de Wolf. T) was correct. She enclosed letter. 'Job' is written all over it. It's been a particularly difficult letter to reply to, as he has without first making secure, burned his boats, as if to throw himself on pity. That's the awkward part. For the idea itself I have no compunction. To give a fanatic his head and attack the fanatics by their own imbecile methods is to play into the enemies hands. I've told him so quite plainly, and that we will have to direct his enthusiasm into more dignified channels. But at the best he's not the man to impress the public, unless the wrong way. Eustace Miles would be a different story - after sufficiently advanced. I've of course told Wolf that Bro(ther)s are not permitted to lecture without the presence of or endorsement of a VII degree. (He has no business to preach to the public (under pretence of 'some interesting subject') what IHVH does or does not like. I have no information yet as to what the others think. If they are enthusiastic about the prospect of having Cain raised, I'll eat the Naples Musée. I am sure you will agree with the course I have taken. I know that one of my weak points is to say more than is absolutely necessary and I was very careful, but to say too little was to allow it to be construed into weakness.

I'm vexed if you have not got the MS of Book IV, 4. I understood that Althea had sent everything, and above was the most important of the lot. I wrote to her to get it and send it this mail if she really did not do so. I have no information yet.

I have anxiety in another direction also, for the time being, but there's no use boring you with what may clear up or never happen.

I am trying to clear up and post this letter early, to clear the way for London. If I do go, I will write fully next week. Love and sympathy to Mother O(f) Heaven. It's a weary world, and we are all having our share of its troubles pro tem. I'm feeling fairly fit again, but shadowed by worry.

However there are consolations. As ever, fraternally.

Geo M Cowie.

I did not post this yesterday. In the afternoon I had an interview that has greatly relieved my mind about business, and made me feel less nervous. Also I'm able to go to London with an easier mind and to feel less hurried about it. I was afraid of asking more than a week-end, but now I am free to delay my return a day or two if necessary. I am not looking forward to it with pleasure, but it will be a load off my mind to be through with it.

I had a wire from Fra J.M. to say he will be very pleased to see me on my way back, so that's good.

Amidst all this turmoil I've been undergoing a sort of inner illumination as a result of these completing chapters of Liber C and getting at a sense not conveyable in words. The feeling of holiness in it is overwhelming, and more so, the sense of responsibility. Then there is a curious feeling that now that I understand so much, it is a wonder that others do not guess it. I always knew that when one did get at the secret of the stone the chief wonder would be that one did not guess it before.

In this connection I woke up with a bad fit of nervousness. I'm not sure but that after all I did risk too much with S(taff) L(angston) and I'm not so confident of him now. Of D.N.D. he has had no word or hint beyond what you know. He injunction therein to try to bring others to the Light made it seem right to try to bring him near where I was when V degree only. He was far enough to know that the mystery had something to do with s(un) and in the light of Energised E(nthusiasm) etc it seemed wrong to deny this. He seemed to make a good guess at the symbolism of the A(~~post~~) too, tho' I've since purposely spoken of the Apros of the flesh which I wouldn't have minded throwing off. I always impress him too with my mind - the Biblical side of the matter just as in my little address to the Lodge, and with its essential holiness. I am wondering now if, in connection with the alchemical books I lent him, and The Canon, I have not given him too clear a clue. He's been kept too busy to speculate lately, but I'll ask him how he's getting on and what he makes of the Golden Bough, and blind him if it seems necessary.

In my present state of mind and nervous feeling about everything, it now seems like gross impudence to have gone even that length. I now realise what sapere aude involves, and non sum qualis erat. I was quite easy in my mind before about it, but now I feel that dead silence is the only thing.

I've got a better knowledge of Latin by this, but certainly not enough to read it at sight. I've made sedulous use of odd bits of time, and can worry out the sense of passages met with in my reading with more ease.

Enclosed nice letter from (the) Outer H(ead of the) O(rder) (Reuss.) this morning. It assures you your letter did reach him. I inferre from what you said that you had arranged with S.L. to fix up with Smith's to send over printed matter (to Switzerland, T) I don't even like to ask him about it! What I sent before was stopped and went to waste - you remember. I will write O.H. (Reuss. T) and explain again. I'd have got a written copy of the Manifesto made but it's so long, and I've never heard from Reelfs if he got the written copy of L(aw) of L(iberty).

Geo M Cowie.

21 Dec 1916

Care Frater.

Do what thou wi It shall be the whole of the Law.

Coming on top of what I had just written about, your letter of 24 Nov fairly gave me THE PIP! I'm awfully sorry you are having such a hard time, especially as I thought you were comfortably settled for the winter. My

financial situation is the worst yet and my calculations again upset by a demand for income tax by Jan 2, my personal one. I'll have to borrow I'm afraid and that's a bad thing. But leave a painful subject.

Yes I had been writing to Texas for weeks as you said to do so, but I had assumed that it would not matter as letters would merely reach you in a roundabout way. One of them contained a Nairne note as mentioned. I'll try to enclose another today as you are so desperate, only it means borrowing I'm in a pretty bad fix till the Baleskine cheque comes along, already anticipated twice over. You should note that the net profit from Baleskine is now only £35 per ann.

I had a letter from S(teff)L(angston) some days ago, to which I have not fully replied as yet, stating that he'd send in his quarterly statement this week. I'll have no scruples about demanding my moiety. I'll, if its sufficient, pay the printers bill and that will leave me free to help you off my own, which he cannot interfere with. The main point in his letter is that he is asking about our legal and financial position in regard to meeting the claims and obligations mentioned in Manifesto, as, e.g. what if a VIII degree's heirs (he needn't worry) claimed return of fees and so on. I shall simply say that I, on receipt of his report, shall instruct the Lodge Master to instruct him to remit the sum I claim. (this is because I find he sent that £5 for printing without consulting the Lodge Master or the Lodge generally, merely informing M(ary Davies) that he had done so) and that that is all he need trouble about. I shall point out that all that lies in my power is to return sufficient, if necessary, to keep the Lodge safe, financially, but beyond that, the G(rand) T(reasurer) G(eneral) does not control expenditure - the funds being by our constitution at the sovereign control of the G(rand) M(aster). There is no need to tell him that I understand that this is inherent in the very nature of things, and that one day it will be a double edged rule - and that I should not dream of challenging it.

The rest of his letter is in a new and chastened tone. I guess he is feeling that he is having his share of trouble and as not even an initiated V degree (he is merely an affiliated F.M.) its awkward for him to pose as an authority. He offered M(ary Davies) I know by calling her to order in Lodge on a point she naturally understood much better than he did, and its unlucky he has been sending out summonses always in his own name, ignoring the W.M. and other officers altogether, I found. I wish I had said nothing to him about removing from 93 (Regent St) on the score of Mary's profession (she was a clairvoyant. T)

~~He offended M(ary)~~

partially mentioning ~~your own~~ remarks, I instructed him not to allow it to be thought that M.M. was G(rand) L(odge) and so on, but I am afraid that he has, as usual, exceeded his instructions by almost ignoring her.

Mary has been extremely loyal to me and understanding, and I have made matters right with her by frankly explaining to her that all sorts of Lodges were in view for people of different classes, that there are people who, as she knows, would look askance at professional clairvoyance etc. I took this all on myself, and as being prompted by me, without the least personal disparagement to herself, she was inclined to be hurt at first, but she knows I am really fond of her and grateful for her loyalty and that I appreciate the fact that our ability to make a start at all was practically all due to her, so we are better friends than ever. She has shown herself aware all along that the recent muddle was caused by S.L. having informed us that he was sending the letter of congrat: which he submitted, and then added to, on his own account without saying anything to us, and it was awkward for him to admit

~~it after. The whole thing was made difficult by your~~

it after. The whole thing was made difficult by your not having known this, and given him an office as a reward, and really I did not know exactly what you meant by it, whether he has been receiving separate instructions from you, or what he has been writing about, he informs me of nothing. Naturally this means chaos, and I wondered why you had set up a double control so to speak. He has evidently taken it to mean that he is a G(rand) L(odge) officer and confidential sec:; and that he seemed to think you had turned me down, and that he could pass me over.

However the document received today (Dec 21) makes my position clear and unchallengeable, and he is bound now to keep me informed of everything and above all not to go beyond instructions, which is the danger with him.

I am uneasy about that personal letter to you from the O(uter) Head of the O(rder). He seems to think it is from Reelfs. I have twice asked for it back, and I am under the impression that he has been typing a lot of copies, and perhaps taking on himself to send it to the Colonial Viceroys without so much as asking leave. really, it was out of proper deference to your appointment, partly to make him useful, that I put him on communication with Parzival (C Stansfield Jones. T) and told him to send the P(astoral) Epistle (the typed copies) to S(outh) A(frica) and Sydney. He takes on himself so much more than he is told that I get alarmed. He may 'pump' on his own account and I can now say that he must submit all letters to me. It is quite clear that without a central channel all will go to sixes and sevens and the document you send is just what I require. Thanks.

I wouldn't send him to Spalding or let him interfere with Hammond just for fear he'd go to excess in the one case and meddle with the MS in the other. That reminds me that I found the Temple copy of the VI, VII, VIII, IX degrees (in sealed envelope) in his hands in Spe Sep - also the A.A. official list. The latter I sealed up, the former, I had to open, as you know, resealed it and left it in Mary's charge. You might say what had better be done. e.g. send to Parzival for a duplicate so as keeping, or keep it with the other copies in my little iron box? A(lthea) brought the above documents from Mawers. How the Temple copy got loose I do not know. I left it in the big altar which contains everything of a delicate nature, bar your private papers. They move things about so often at the warehouse that I get nervous, but A(lthea) would notice if anything wrong.

She could not get at your Grimoire, I forgot to say, last letter. When I was in London she said she knows where it is, but that it would probably cost pounds to get at it, so I said not to mind for the present - wait next occasion.

I'm in a nervous state any way, not quite myself and almost unable to do anything in my short evenings. Then the Knowledge has got on my nerves. When one knows it, it seems to shoot at one from everything, notably from St John's Gospel and from every church spire so that one is afraid people must see it in one's own eyes.

I shouldn't think from his accounts that S.L. has got any forrader. As a red herring I said something nonsensical in last letter about the "Seven-sided" Stone of the Wise not producing us much wealth, so he may think it has something to do with the planets.

Well, as there are no dollars rolling in, and Stainless Silence from S(outh) A(frica) I am not yet worried by the nightmare of having to keep books. Even the Lord couldn't help me there, natural incapacity too great.

I note that E(ustace) M(iles) has a very nice notice of the tracts in his monthly, but haven't heard from him and I think its wise policy to let him alone, but I'll have to write and say I'm not coming up at the January

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holiday. Railway restrictions and 50 per cent increased fares and absence of l.s.d. make it impossible. That flying visit was wise whilst it was still easily possible. Its better too to let S.L. wrestle a bit longer with the position he has created by taking possession of everything.

Your letter of Dec 1 (received Dec 21) hastaken a weight off my mind, and you know if it were possible Id take a weight off yours by sending you a few millions! but----. Everything is pretty dismal here, but anyway its not we who are beaten. Cheer up. Must stop, but I've managed to touch all essential I think. But when the letter is posted, its then I remember. Love is the law, love under will, so be of good cheer. Fraternally

Geo M Cowie.

28 Dec 1916

Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Richard is partly himself again. I am profoundly thankful to have that clear and precise Note on my possession. Its necessity was not in the least foreseen in Sep but it was just the want of it that paralysed me these last two months and it has not come too soon. The little I have permitted myself to say gives you no notion of the extraordinary extent to which S(teff) L(angston) has taken possession of and constituted himself apparently Supreme Head Lord I could say but little being in supreme - total ignorance as to whether or not you had written to him again or not. There did not seem anything in your first letter to justify him in posing as a confidential secretary, G(fand) G(rand, General ?) O fficer etc, whirling over my head and leaving me in ignorance as to what he is doing. I did not know but that you might have given him some reason to, and so had to wait.

I have now sent him a copy. The document is so precise that it needed but little comment and I have let him down the gentlest possible, as I know my man, now, and after swaggering around before the others as 'Grand Lodge' and so on, and seemingly passing me over, in spite of profuse protestations of loyalty, I know he will simply be sick of, with mortification, poor chap. Its a pity he might be so useful a man, but his weak point seems to be a vanity quite bye-ordina. My visit to London revealed that, in some very curious ways. I really dont know, but it wouldnt be like him if he hasnt made the most of the chance to do a stunt as Codlin's the friend, vice Short relegated to the gutter and ignore-able. A chance reference revealed the fact that he locks himself into the office daily and is he ard pounding away for hours on the type-writer, no one knows what, he wont say, but quite likely its the astrological data. Give him some more, do, to keep him out of mischief, get him to compile a forecast for 1918 to knock Zadkiel's Almanac into a cocked hat. He has too much spare time on his hands.

I was surprised at first that he was ready to spend so much (he isn't generous) on travelling. But he's been having the time of his life, and half a weeks free board and lodging from poor Mamy weekly must be an offset. In these hard times she must be a bit 'fed up' with it and the extra work, tho' she says little and I doubt if it will ever occur to him to make any return.

In inspecting the bag in front I dont forget to give the bag behind a squint, or forget that * can be a d(amned) f(ool) myself. I certainly was in having said anything at all on so short an acquaintance about his chances. Its only doing him justice to say that nothing could be more straightforward or loyal than his reply to my letter, and I have taken him at his word.

There is still trouble however, and it would take a much wiser and stronger man than I to straighten it out. I could not foresee that he would take things in such deadly earnest and make the running of the Lodge almost his metier.

He really knows so little of the history of the last few years, far less than Mary does and has perhaps mistaken the situation. There are things I can't tell him or Mary, private affairs of your own, nor can I, without the danger of slandering you, because I do not fully understand your actual standpoint yet, say much or anything about the 'literary' history of the last two years 1914-15. (Refers to A.G's pro-German articles.T) The promised enlightenment and 'piece of news' is still to seek.

I indicated in my last that he was inquiring about finance. He is now asking some quite pertinent questions of a kind sure to arise in any case, but to which you alone can reply-e.g. suppose say Bro W.D(avies) dies and leaves the amount of all the fees (say £30) he has paid in, to his son, we are legally bound by one of your clauses to pay that amount. Where does it come from? and so on. To the man in the street this seems a curious and very Irish provision. If everyone recovers all his fees at death what does the Order rub along on?

I have not replied to these questions yet, but when I do I shall say that, as in duty bound, I printed the manifesto exactly as you sent it, without question, tho' with some criticism after. I shall say that they are all pledged to accept the authority of the G(rand) M(aster) as absolute, and that if any such question arises from outsiders there is the fact that the Order does already possess some real estate, and that the manifesto evidently refers as if actually present, to a state of affairs that requires time for its full unfolding.

Between ourselves I cannot believe that you rely on the ability to fulfil all these promises merely on subscriptions etc. Experience shows that most people soon choke off and don't pay. My confidence in printing that rather challengeable document is because I am sure that it is from the Knowledge, or from the promises in L(iber) L(egis) that you took to provide the solid bases of things. Without this, the scheme has always I must frankly admit, looked to me chimerical. The above views however I keep to myself, for the present.

(remainder of letter missing.T)

2 Jan. ? 1917

Care Frater.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law

The New Year began well with a pleasant letter from E(ustace) M(iles) which I enclose. I was going to spend the day in bed to try to rest myself, and get rid of thoughts and worries for a day at least. Something cheering for once was needed, and that and another unexpected and pleasant message (from a cousin whom I thought had disowned me) relieved the blues a bit.

Things have never seemed quite so blue before. I'm afraid there's something wrong with me and I'm wondering if it is 'smoker's heart'. The prospect of being a deader is not at all cheerless, this being an uncommonly fine world to get out of, but worse is the dread of breaking down. I wish you were back, or that some brighter prospect were ahead.

It is no news to you that I am an Ass. I've been so again. I was quite wrong in supposing that S(teff) L(angston) had written you without informing me, I had really good reason for inferring that he had just lately but as the information proved worthless, it's quite likely that a lot more is, and that I have been doing him gross injustice in my thoughts and in writing what I did in my last to you.

It is good that you are so optimistic about the near future and I hope you will strike 'ile enough for your own comfort. I'm in a real quandary about sending money as you will see ~~fra~~, unless out of my own pocket in pure

friendship and at this moment I havent a Mairne.

The trouble wth B(oleskine) is that it implies an additional charge of nominally £9 a year (At first I took it to mean £18, such are my arithmetical faculties: and was dismayed) I had no knowledge that there was a time limit to the mortgage, there is nothing for it but to agree to the extra 1 per cent as the people are quite right and can not only get 5 per cent but be doing a patriotic action as well. Its a thorn in my side that I cant do the same action myself, it makes one feel so mean. Its useless to expect anyone else to take over the mortgage, and if the present holders refuse even at 5 p.c., there will be nothing for it but to take Mrs B(rook)'s offer (of £2000 ? T) and when the mortgages are both paid off I leave it to your arithmetical faculties to say how many hundreds will be left.

(By the way I hope you have kept the Rider Debenture safe as its redeemable next year)

All seems going well in London, I dont fancy however that M(ary Davies) and S(teff) L(angston) pull together-I have kept my head and write as cheerfully as I possibly can. I am glad of your remarks as to the Lodge Master's powers etc. I understand that Miss O, a Mrs Hadden, and the great Victoria (Cremers) have been hovering about 93 (Regent St). Miss O will be no use if she's chumming with V' Cremers. S.L. thinks that they are running some sort of Lodge together of their own.

Your reply to Windram is just right, but I dont want to get Bro(ther) B(enet)--w B(ralthwaite) -who has just returned- into hot water. At most we should say that a chance question o f his to me raised a doubt as to whether the S(outh) A(frican) Brethren were taught on the proper lines, as he didnt know what NUIT was. Ill be careful in writing as I've had ~~my~~ lessons lately that stainless silence is the best thing going. W(indram)'s letter does seem elusive and there is no indication that any money will come.

I must try to tell you plainly about 112 (note - the M.M.M. Lodge at 93 Regent St. T). The balance claimable by me on the half year's working amounted to less than £4. The membership is not large enough yet to guarantee the working expenses, and I had no choice but to waive the balance as a grant. It is hopeless to expect anything even if the income were good, as if it is found that anything is being sent to the G(rand) M(aster) the L(odge) will be closed down and serious trouble follow. (Note. Police action as a result of A.C's political articles. See later letters. T) I must therefore be in a position to show that not one penny of the funds has been taken by me. I wont run any risk of getting these innocent people into hot water, nor I am sure would you wish it.

I have confidence in your ultimate clearing up of misunderstandings. But I do wish you were back and all serene-and that somebody else was G(rand) T(reasurer) G(eneral). I've only endured that accursed job because there was no one else, to I hoped Keaseby was going to be. What's become of H Stuart Something? Another eluder?

The P(ost) M(aster) G(eneral) will take no notice of a request to re-address letters, unless signed by yourself. We dont know what may have gone to 33 (Avenue Sudios), possibly cheques

I sent that letter of Phipps re propaganda work to Mary, advising her to give it to Wolfe to be read in Lodge. It will please him, show he is not passed over and may give him hints. Mary sent me a very good account of a lecture he had given under her auspices, (propaganda) and as long as he works that way, I quite approve. I have written him this week, I dont think it wise to give him his head seeing he is in the Lodge but as long as he acts w with Mary's full knowledge and approval he cant go far wrong. It would be a

mistake to make a noise at present. I've a diffi ulty in writing as plainly as I like, and I must hope that per aetral post you know how affairs stand over here. I'm glad that you seem to have got all my letters, there was a Nairne (£5 note ? T) in one that went when I heard that you were not at Inshallah, two in all

I wish to goodness and for your sake that I could write more cheerfully, but in truth I'm not in my usual health and spirits and liable to get despondent. The worry about business seems small now, almost providential in a way, as this year I sometimes wonder how I get through my more mechanical duties at all, and I feel less worried if I'm 'off' for a little. I can only get this letter done because I felt unwell and had to come home. I feel much older and not good for much in the evenings. Not keen for my old studies even and inclined to read novels and loose myself in other people's troubles tho' I don't see that Latin will be of much use to me, its a sort of solace and recreation. H(ammon) I havent heard from of course ('solace' reminded me of him).

I am conscious that ~~dryana~~ would make a new man of me and in spite of the mind being a sea of troubles, I keep on trying. To the credit side there is the Knowledge and I don't forget that that has been worth the pain, imperfect as it is yet, and that I have learnt much, though recent troubles. The difficulty is to keep the bright side well in sight. Naturally I am liable to look too much at the black side of things.

For the sake of Mary and myself I hope that They will provide a Funeral before very long. I've worried so much that I can't worry longer and your remarks that it is Their funeral helps stoicism.

I heard from B(ritish) C(olumbia - C Stanfield Jones or Parsifal) this week. I havent managed to write S(outh) Africa - A(frica or) N(ew) S(outh) W(ales, i.e. Bennet) yet, I hardly know what to say.

Althea has about £12 from sales of Equinoxes etc. I'm afraid I'll have to confiscate £5 to help to buy the typewriter, the Lodge has paid £1 monthly, hire, but won't do more, and £7 would now buy it outright. I've crippled myself with £2 a month to Althea, and I don't see what I'm getting for it. No more instalments of V(oice) of ~~SH~~ Silence. Did you get section I by the way?

Now I must stop, if this is to be sure to catch the mail, it now seems to take 3 weeks for a letter to cross and the long interval before an answer comes is often trying. Write once a week if you can, or I begin to think something is wrong. Adieu. Love is the law, love under will. Ever fraternally

Geo M Cowie.

I Feb 1917
Care Frater.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Thank God your letter (no date) arrived again at a psychological moment I was feeling unfit for work this forenoon and just as I reached home the post girl handed in your letter which has bucked me up a bit, tho' it shows you are suffering even worse than I am. Also its come just in time for a reply in the letter I was anyway meditating to send.

A fresh bolt from the blue (if we can call it 'blue' except in the sardonic sense) came this morning (see emcl:) and implies that a fresh burden on the already oversaddled B(oleskite) estate. With one thing and another I'm getting quite broken he arted and in dread of a collapse. Altho' I'm not starving yet, nor should ~~I~~ you if you were here, I believe I feel all these mean worries about money more keenly than you do, being a man who ~~can't~~ can't sit still and who thinks himself a slave if he's in debt to the extent of six pence.

It seems to me that the moment has come, when in the melodrama, only the descent of a god in a plumed hearse will prevent everything from going to hell. As far as that goes however the arrival of a million dollar cheque next week, after the first satisfaction, would only increase the my agonies in another way as -for the 1,000,000th time- I can no more keep books than I can keep a bar. I often think that no future success materially can compensate you or me either for these last three years

(note. The remainder may be part of another letter. T)

Now about that pestilence, the dem H(un) who has been the cause of the only doubtful feeling I've ever had against you, my virulence (not hate), one doesn't hate a bad smell) is due entirely to the remembrance of that M.S. you gave me to read and the persistent way in which you have, whether in jest or earnest I don't know, held up and whitewashed the H(un). It would have taken another M(aster of the) T(emple) to have seen in that an endeavour to raise me on a higher plane.

I do not call him 'names'-I give him his due titles. The German is a born servile and as is the nature of slaves a merciless and inhuman tyrant when he gets to be, or imagines he is, top dog. He's a dirty dog in any case, boor and true bully. See how he whines when he gets what he is so eager to give others. Observe the crass stupidity with which he sets the whole world against him- ~~Thelema~~ (in Greek, ~~T~~) Such is not of Thelema, not to be held up as an encouragement or an example of the Law of the Strong as suggested in your M.S., something by which we will be enabled to lift our heads in turn. We to emulate the patriots of Europe? That's what has horrified me. I may have totally misunderstood you, but anyway that's my position.

I understand that quite well that many things people look on as virtues are really vices and vice versa. But I draw the line if it comes to the paradox that sheer dastardliness, card sharpening, sadism, and mean lying are to be held up as virtues. Not for G.M.Cowie) - And whilst I am talking straight, here is another thing straight, but withal brotherly-I think it is time you said something nice about your other brother the Englishman who is any way behaving as a Man should do. It is shameful to hate the Hun, but not to hate the English and the English pharisee? There are plenty him I know and he and the Flat Paxies (why did you label me with that rotten name!) will do their best when it comes to peace being signed, to let the bully down gently, becos he is their Brother, and give him a chance to begin the mischief all over again.

Now I've spat that out, tell me I misunderstood you with regard to Thelema and I can regard the whole business when I choose as if it were happening in the Pole Star. If the Hun is to have His horn exalted what would I care for all your future millions? Dem 'em. But if we have to fight about this, its brotherly, always.

F.P - {Pefan-(Dephant Pax!)

Feb 4 - 8.1917
Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

The day after I wrote you last, and just in time to miss that mail I dare-say, the M.S. of Book IV part 4 came back. It had lain at the Bank and was returned as 'unclaimed'. In spite of the increased war risks I thought it as well to repost it immediately and it should reach you coincidentally with this letter, or almost so. Glad it didn't actually get lost.

Good news is that America has at last come in.

I wrote Windram last week as briefly (but as courteously) as possible. I thought it best to preserve it.

thought it best to preserve stainless silence about the question of Ritual till it is seen if they are going to try to help financially or not. Better let it hinge on that.

About the mortgage (on Boleskine) the latest is that the lenders are holding out for $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Its not settled yet and its worrying me what will happen.

For the first time, partly to encourage S(teff) L(angston) partly that I onder if he doubts my goos faith, I have given him an avv the position I really am in at this minute. I could only round the end of the year by wiping out the last remaining bit of my loo which I had kept for what I knew would be an emergency. The trouble is that another emergency may arise any minute and I'll get left this time to borrow during Xmas week to tide me over till other money comes in.

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I'm feeling more like my normal self now, but these two year have taken as much off me as five before. I relise I'm not far off sixty and deal with the ever increasing writing and all the rest of it, I hardly know how I can keep on, tied to my office hours and with enough to do after, as much as all a day. What time is the Funeral? I feel beaten, and this latest worry added on does not help nor flame one's enthusiasm.

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I think that the break up for the first time in years of my regular med. practice had something to do with my almost breakdown in health. The worry that started in October just when things were going so well, and to tell the truth, my own errors of judgement, spoiled my practice. I get back to it now at times. The mind goes fallow much better than it used to, when I am able to practice and the effect on my mental health, after, is marked. By the lord, I wish you hadn'y 'chipped in' that time, it so befogged me.

Mary is coming to lecture to a Spiritualists in Glasgow about end of this month and will be the first person to be entertained in a House of the Order here. (Note. Cowie seems to have made his house over to the O.T.O. There is a hint of this in a previous letter. T) I'm very glad and we'll be able to have a good 'crack'. I came upon your poem The Sevenfold Sacrament amongst some old papers the other day and sent it to her as a nice task for one of the ladies to read in Lodge. She wishes me to send you her love, but she wont of course write. She has spoken for some time of going on a lecturing tour in Australia soon.

If the boofie (?) lady be all that is said, fate points to her as a heaven born D(eputy) G(rand) T(reasurer) G(eneral) till such time as we are satisfied that she is not Victoria II^{1/2} (Cremers). I dont forget what came of putting implicit faith in the latter, and then she might relieve me of the 'orrible job that I'm in nowise fit for. I pine for a dissolute island where the only currency is shells! I can stick the rest of it, but money....! I've asked Mary by the way if this doesnt suggest a way of settling the mortgage difficulty

Thurs. 8th.

Mails are likely to be slower than ever but thank God that America has dropped in.

This thing of shreds and patches has had to be written in shreds and patches and there's only time for this last shred. No word from you up till this p.m. Note that I cannot send money even if there were any. My duty as to that is plain and you should understand. I know however that you are bound to be working for Universal Street---her- Brotherhood and I assure our people (note, the police. T) it is so, even if it looks different.

Love is the law, love under will, so Fraternally yours

Geo M Cowie.

15 Feb 1917

Care Frater.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

That business of the unholy mortgage on the Holy House (Boleskine) still drags. The lenders wont agree however to less than 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ I purposely told Mary D(avies) and S(teff) L(angston) frankly about the matter, in the forlorn hope that they'd speak ~~to~~ of it to D(ora) V(ogt) I've no opportunity with the latter, L(angston) having ~~taken~~ so taken possession of her. The good Mary by a lucky chance found some one else with enough to lend it if she ~~gets~~ gets 5 p.c. I've used all my blarney to get her to be content with the ~~present~~ present 4 %, but so far no reply and its hanging fire.

The mysterious B(uddhist?) P(erson?) is still hovering about 93 (Regent St) desperately anxious to be affiliated, but unable to produce satisfactory proof. I've advised them to say she could write to me or come and see me as a means of gaining time. It would be more satisfactory if we could wait and see if you can throw any light on the matter. She gives her Mother L(odge) as Graecia L(odge) of Persia, says she is 30 Degree and so on and offers a password unknown to us. I s really none of my funeral, and I can only

give general advice and recommend caution. We can't refuse her initiation however if she prefers to come in by that method. I go much more by what (Mary) says than by S.L. who doesn't really tell me everything.

The Lodge is steadily growing, well soon have as many members in 6 months as in B(ritish) C(olumbia). Parzival-Jones sent me a full financial report and list of members last week. I was a bit taken aback and wondered if I'd gone beyond my province in asking for this report, as it was from, he said, his G.T. Grand Treasurer General. I wasn't in the least aware there was a G.T.C. for that Province, and ~~had~~ said so. Is this right? I always understood that G(mand) S(ecretary) G(eneral) and G(rand) T(reasurer) G(eneral) were titles reserved for the G(rand) Officers of the whole Order, M.M.M. section. If there's one for every province it's rather confusing isn't it? Not that I mind if there's a million G.T.G's.

I'm suffering from a cold at the minute, otherwise I'm much better. But I've stopped the insidious cigarette altogether this year, I was overdoing it. Also I've made time for meditation and am recovering the control of my mind. But, at the best, it's difficult to see things except under a blue tinge, hard times ahead seem ahead. I am not so subject to visions of the G.T.G. reduced to selling halfpenny papers in the gutter, and I take worries as they come and dismiss them. But I wish I knew you were more comfortable, I can't help and that's another worry.

Mary and her husband are coming here next week and there's no two people I'd sooner see having the distinction of being the first people in this country to be guests in a House of the Order. Mary has been a brick, all along, you know, and we could not have grown at this rate without her. Old Olney is back, by the way. Poor Brother D has quite broken down and Mary is obliged to pay some one to do what he used to do for her. They believe that it all arose out of that New Year visit. Your various remarks about the duties and privileges of L(odge) M(aster)s - which I am glad to be enlightened about - I am keeping to communicate to her when here.

I am not good for much in the evenings, usually very lazy, let us call it, but I am keeping the Geomancy book in mind.

I am informed that R(euss ?) got all he wanted, so that's off my mind.

Your letters whilst not indicating any funerals are always cheering, by their sheer hopefulness. But I'm not so imperturbable a person myself. This war does drag on so long, nature seems to be taking a hand too. H.G. Wells is the only writer I've known to remark how queer a business it all is. Well, we Britons haven't much to feel small about.

Love is the law, love under will. Ever fraternally

Geo M Cowie.

P.S. Just as I had folded this a letter came from S.L. He says the Mysterious Lady has explained that she was Initiated in Arabic - "it is evidently a lot different from ours in particular but with us in general principles (sic) - have given her your address, so she will be writing you to explain herself as she lays claim to 30 Degree and I told her you would understand more about that (Shall I ?) She is very friendly with Mary d'Este S(turges) and wants me to meet her as she is greatly interested in the resumption of the Order, and in spite of the misunderstanding with S.C. still has unlimited faith in him and wishes us well. Although she wrote Book 4 (did she really?) she has not seen a printed copy yet".

G.M.Cowie.

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8 Mar 1917
Care Frater.

To what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

I must write you very seriously. It was only the other on Saturday that I learned the cause of the recent action by the authorities and of which I was in absolute ignorance. It has come as a severe shock. I assume you know, you could not have meant that use to be made of your stuff. I learn that it is only my known probity of character, which unknown to me, has been closely inquired into, that has satisfied the authorities that the Lodge is exactly what is set forth in the Manifesto and that we have no political motive, there is as well the obvious innocence and respectability of all our members. The authorities say that so long as I am in control in England, and so long as we are not helping you, they are satisfied and we may continue. Otherwise I have no doubt we should have been closed down.

It is purely, as you know, for the obvious advantages of the scheme of Universal brotherhood and social and moral regeneration, that I have pushed the Order, with political ideas or views of yours, we ought not to be concerned. They will only serve to paralyse us, and put a stop to progress. And the Lodge was really promising to grow into a very great and dignified thing. People may think our views Utopian, but we have already made a small Utopia visible, and practicable. In the present state of public feeling, the Conscientious Objector would be a popular hero compared with us, if we were thought to be helping you politically-and that is what I've always tried to impress on you.

It puts me in a difficult position, as whilst I was ready to suffer that the world of the future might be free and happy, and rid of present evils, I have no stomach for politics good or bad. Now also that I've learned of the confidence the authorities have in me, it is a point of honour to justify it. I think you should send me something stating that whilst I am in control of your in your absence, my only concern is with the mystical and social side of the work, and the carrying out of the scheme laid down in the Manifesto. No one of the class we want will join us, if there is a danger of their being regarded as political fire-brands. If it were clearly recognised that there was no danger of this, no question of politics to arise, and our movement not merely watched but guarded, all would be different.

Your articles are no doubt misunderstood, but the authorities are of course quite right. I am in a cruel position really, I can suffer when it's only myself that's affected, what breaks me is the terror of bringing suffering on others, or of disgracing my relatives. My isolation little expected when you left England is weighing heavily on me besides. It is only the hope that the sky may suddenly clear and you can come back, that makes me able to go on at all. If Sister Agatha were here with us that would be a great help. Poor Mary is suffering severely, husband permanently broken in health etc. Then there is just now a Tea shop being put up under us at 93 (Regent St), with a band playing all day, and that will make work impossible. Mary's temperament pulls her through better than mine does. I am too apt to cross the bridge before I come to it. But it's no use making light of the present trouble. The members will be frightened away, when they know of it, they have not been told, and unless I am in a position to reassure them that we have no concern with politics whilst I am in control, everything will break up. I am more concerned for the innocent people under me, than about getting sacrificed for not agreeing with you in everything. In certain ways I have a will to do what I will in matters that touch my own feelings of honour, and

I am a Scot besides- So! I must make it clear that everyone who has joined us

did so, in complete ignorance of your ~~if~~ "views"- and is guiltless of any political motive. I didn't expect any trouble.

(Note. Remainder possibly belongs to another letter. T)

This until you have vindicated yourself, as promised me, and can return to England. It is another blow to realise that that seems far off, meanwhile it leaves me in a position that I ~~t~~ would take a very strongman to bear with equanimity. You have a right to your own views, and I've not quarreled, but so have we to ours. I'm not spelling ~~h~~ousios with the ~~i~~ however, and in all matter of knowledge and mysticism I am quite loyal to you as well you know. What you are really working for must, I know, be necessarily for good, and I "keep on loving and trusting", but this recent matter has such an ugly look and will so harm the movement that I can't understand it at all, and its now impossible to explain. If you were on the spot all would be ~~well~~ so different and I'd get some peace. Getting into the Silence is now almost hopeless, things in general weigh so heavily on my mind that I cannot still it as I used to do, and am suffering in consequence.

Business is looking pleasant again, new and agreeable work turning up, and I did right after all perhaps in being generous.

I'm sorry about money. I could send you a small sum from myself, but it would be so clearly regarded as a subterfuge, and not out of friendship, that I feel bound not to, especially as I'm on my honour, knowing that I am trusted not to do this.

There are many bright spots in my dismal career! What helps me to pull through is the unmistakeable respect, love and devotion I get from the whole Lodge. No danger of swelled head though, as don't I recognise that it is through you that I have what Wisdom I have and I see to it that it's reflected back on you. And that one day when this evil is over we shall see you in your true Light. As for the "Toccatto of Galluppi" the cause, I now am sure is Scorpio rising and that explains much. I am not blind to the limitations of other far more selfless personalities and don't you fear that I have not a sense of humour about other things.

It is three weeks since I heard from you last, a letter may arrive tomorrow to make this superfluous, nevertheless it must go. Love is the law, love under will.

Defiantly but ever fraternally (As brothers fight ye)

George M Cowie

The p.s. to yours of Feb 18 has just come, but not the letter itself as yet. The mortgage is arranged but not completed.

Mar 21, 22. 1917

Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

No news from you for a long time, but I am not feeling anxious, having the impression that you are all right and that things will clear up and be explained. My worst anxiety has been fear for the innocent people in London, who except two don't even know what has happened lately. If it were not for the confidence that you will come out all right, and that the Event is sure, I should have less calm.

For myself I seem to be going through an ordeal in which I am doing my best to emerge with honour on all sides. Be sure of that. I think I have got over that bad period of depression and almost illness and am my old self, only consciously older, and a bit broken. But its precisely my old self I'm trying to get away from and submerge. I can endure shocks better when indifferent as to what happens to my personal self, and meditation has come down to that: self consciousness rather than thought being the obstacle.

So much alone, I dont know what mistakes I may be making, and get bothered as to whether I am doing right or wrong. The only consolation is that in spite of failure of ammunition, fog, and bewilderment I've stuck to my guns. To change the metaphor it is, as six years ago, sink or swim.

The real danger is that loyalty to my own country, clearly enjoined however in our own Manifesto, and anxiety for the protection of those under me, may be mistaken for disloyalty to our Chiefs in other ways. Have no fear of that. Dont I recognise that all my thoughts and motives must be seen and known. Another danger is that I may give the authorities the impression that I take your poppycock as seriously as they seem to do. Also make allowance for foolishness written in moments of depression and bodily weakness.

You may think too that I am merely frightened at being under surveillance. As a matter of fact it has given me confidence, as the last thing we want is to work in secret, and it is precisely the governing classes we want to attract. The more open and above board we are, the better. Unless I am egregiously flattering myself, my movements in London will be watched, a fact at which I am more amused than frightened. Fancy the Seeker of serenity (note, his Probationer's motto was Quero Serenitatem. T) overshadowed by a Guardian Angel in blue! I travel up on the 3rd, a more wearisome journey than of old and more costly. I am afraid that, thanks to Mary's knowledge of what's what, there will be more swank than I personally care for, however I must take what is due to my dignity as ambassador, and try to look as if I liked it.

I am very much on my guard, but I seem to have made a discovery of late. The words I had written a few hours previously about sticking to my guns, were repeated by the 'transmitting instrument' with an expression of approval and the intimation that I was acting rightly in safeguarding the innocent, at risk of displeasure. This did not come from you.

Useful this, if it is from the proper source, which there is every reason to think it is - I am wary however - It occurred spontaneously at first, and to the surprise of the instrument, who had similar experiences in childhood, but never since.

In case one has not reached you I enclose a copy of an interesting missive from Switzerland. This is all right, very satisfactory, and something I can be in with a clear conscience and try to help. We should certainly have delegates from here (and I should greatly enjoy seeing at least 'The Ship' acted) if only to see that the interests of this country are represented and protected. I will feel confidence in applying for passports now. I will await your opinion however. I enclose a copy of my reply. Although that is absurd on the face of it, the Congress might be mistaken here for a peace movement in favour of Germany, so I am cautious. They will think over in Ancona that I am an exceedingly cautious and unenthusiastic Scot. Very Well!

I was wrong about Scorpio. The trouble seems to proceed from Saturn in $\text{\textcircled{5}}$ and the position by sign of most of the planets. The good combination of sun in Libra, Moon in Gemini agrees however with my first impressions. The 'music' has not yet been passed through the fire, so he does not recognise the ego as the real impediment of the Great Work, I will now be able to lead him gently into more useful paths, but the 'interest and advancement of others' enjoined on him at first does not seem to be his forte. I have no doubt however of his real enthusiasm and devotion to the Order - sometimes indiscreet however, or of his regard for me and Mary, in spite of strange ways of showing it. I will try to put him right tactfully when in London. (Note.

I-want-to-get-at-my-own-weak the above refers to Steff Langston I think, T)

I want to get at my own weak points too, and have got one of the 'children' to work out my horoscope, under the illusion that it is that of some despr'rit villain whose ill points I want to be informed about. (Note The horoscope is attached.)

I am feeling really well. There was no good in going to a quack, the remedy would be 'drop everything for three months and dont worry', so I've seriously taken myself in hand. All depends on my being able to drop everything out of my mind for an hour or two in the mornings and I am endeavouring to stick to this gun too. To give up all the time I can to this is not selfish, as it braces me for everything else. But worry is hard to drop, and what an ~~unconsc~~ time now the self has been a dyin' !

By the way the London people have heard glowing accounts of your prosperity and absence of need of funds. I've been careful to give them the true facts, that you rub along comfortably on the whole, and that something always turns up at the pinch, but that you are still denied the large sums necessary for your Mission and propaganda.

Not a word yet about the mortage (on Boleskine), but at any rate no refusal (to renew it) Its not a matter to decide in a minute and communication everywhere is slow. I'm finishing this today, the vernal Equinox, they are celebrating it tonight in London with due rite. With every good wish, Love is the law, love under will. As ever fraternally

F.P. George M Cowie.

25 April An XIII (1917.T)

Care Frater

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

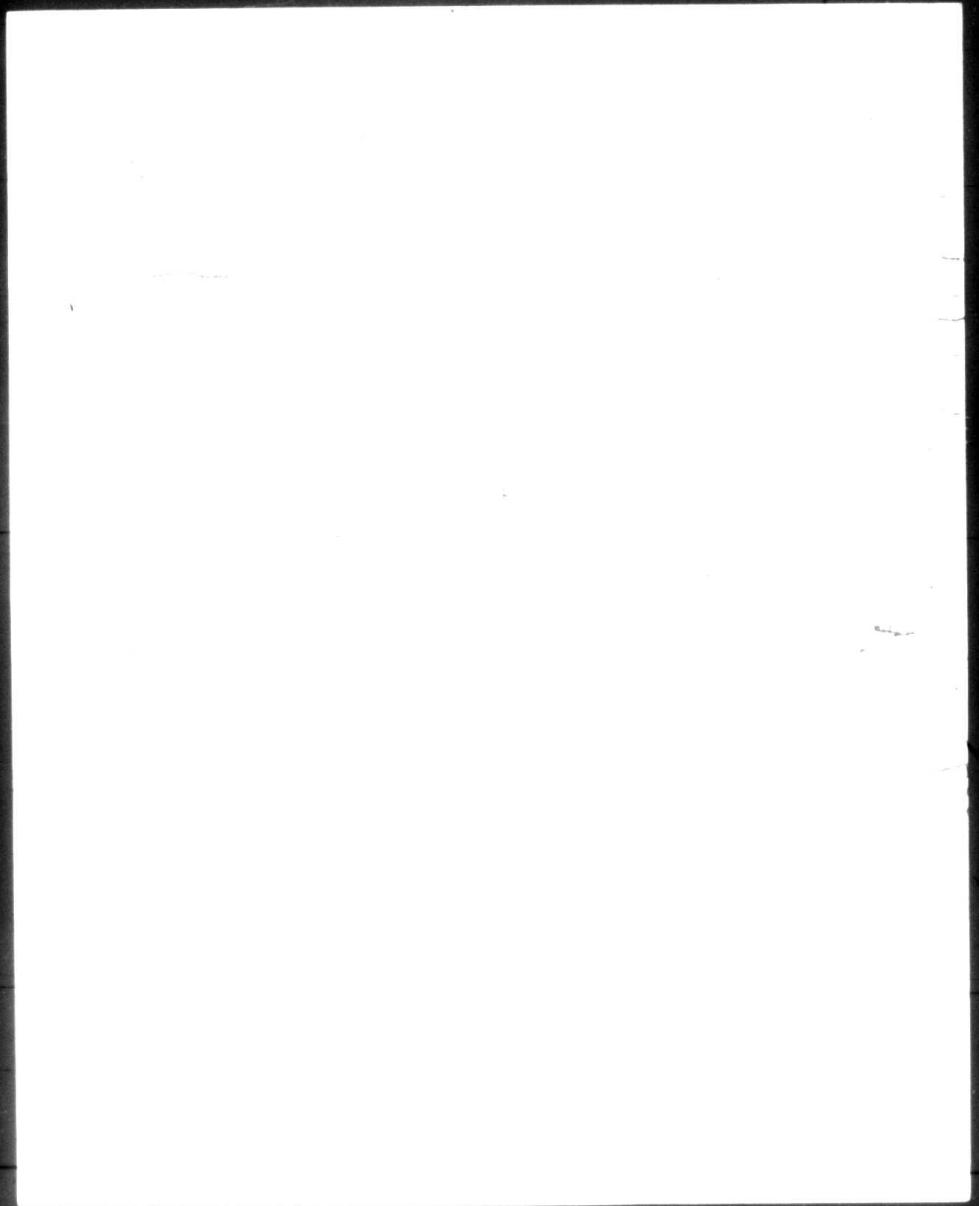
I have received from you today the addition to the Ritual of the II Degree. Yes this is a most valuable addition to not only that ritual, but to the whole general scheme. What has most hot me where I live is ~~the~~ ~~ther~~ Th(erion)'s (in Greek. T) idea that the higher the office, so to speak, the less the material reward. I shall instruct that this addition is to be read at once, not merely at the first possible II Degree ceremony, but to the whole of the Lodge who have already passed the II Degree, and that repeatedly to fix it well in memory.

As we get on and the Lodge a little more than pays its expenses, there has been a sign or two of self-interest rearing its ugly head, and I have been impressing the necessity of all sticking together, and the non-importance of the personal self, or attempts at self-exaltation. This new outline of the principles of governance will clinch that nail.

I was in London nearly a fortnight at Easter and found all going well and the Lodge growing. Four new Can(didate)s were receive while I was there. Mary Davies-though I know her obvious limitations-makes an excellent L(odge) M(aster) and indeed is chiefly to her that we owe
(remainder of letter missing.)

Undated. First four pages missing.

Fain would this warrior win to the peace! My isolation and the apparent want of help and guidance in oftentimes perplexing circumstances are often a horror, and if it were not that I know that no blunders or misunderstandings of mine are potent to change the course of destiny, or delay the good time coming, I should be in still worse case. Also I keep in mind that Nuit is powerful to protect her servants, and that however poor a servant I am I am certainly helping, and am doubtless watched and guarded. You are bound to know that as far as my own limitations let me I am doing right, and am



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