

LXXVII

Entered in Registry w. Post Trans

on 22 LXXV

4 carbons

End of "Chiefs" group of letters

The letter was addressed to Karl Jenner.

His widow gave me the MSS.

P. J. York

The A. I. A. and the planet.

1 to Karl Jenner

1 to Capt. Gerald York

~~2 did not~~
~~reach it~~
~~274~~

7 Selwyn Gardens

Cambridge

Let me have
these copies in
envelopes for
correction &
insertion of a
personal letter.

C 5

No. 20

You write: "Am I to understand that the A.: A.: has two main lines of Work: (1) The Initiation of Individuals, (2) Action on the World in general - say "Weltpolitik"? Because your letters on the History of Magick do imply (2); and yet the A.: A.: discourages any form of group working. Is it that the Masters (8°-3° Magistri Templi) having been admitted to the Third Order - the A.: A. proper; below this are R.R. et A.C. and G.O.: - are no longer liable to the dangers which make group activity in lower grades undesirable. Or do They still work as individuals, yet, because They are Initiates, appear to act as a corporate body? You have often expressed yourself as if this were so. "Of course They had to pick on me to do the dirty work" is a typical growth of the old Magician! But again there is that Magical Memory of yours when you came down from that Hermitage in the little Wood overhanging the nullah below the Great Peak. Somewhere in

2)

Asia," and sat in some sort of Convent in the valley where the great Lamaserai - or whatever it was - towers over the track, (I wrote some of your phrases from memory) Which is it?"

My dear child, that is all very sensibly put; and the answer is, that Conscience would decide.

Then you go on ~~with~~, after a digression: "Then how are They acting at present? What impact has the new Word, Thelma, made upon the planet? What are we to expect as a result? And can we poor brighted outsiders help Them in any way? I know it's "cheek" to ask."

Then from the other cheek, and repeat the question! I will do my best to make it all clear. But do not forget that I am myself completely in the dark with regard to the special functions of most of my colleagues.

To begin, then!

Achtung! I am going to be ~~as~~ hard-boiled; ~~as~~ my first act is to enlist the Devil himself in our

3/

banks, and take the Materialistic Interpretation of History from Karl Marx, and accept economic laws as the manifest levers which determine the fortune of one part of the earth or another.

I shall take exception only by showing that these principles are secondary: oil in Texas, nitrates on the Pacific slope of the Andes, sulphur in Louisiana (which put Etna's nose out of joint by making ^{it cheaper for} the buyers of Messina import it ^{from 4000 miles away} instead of digging it out of their own back garden), even coal and timber, upset very few apple-carts until individual genius had found for these commodities such uses as our grandfathers never dreamed of. The technical developments of almost every form of wealth are the forebears of Big Business; and Big Business, directly or indirectly, is the immediate cause of War.

In the "To-day and to-morrow" series is an essay called Ouroboros, ^{ROS} by Janet Garrett; one of the most shrewd and deep-delving analyses of economics ever written. ^{May I condense him crudely?} Mass Production for Profit fails when its market is exhausted; so every effort is made

3/

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4/ to impose it not only on the native but the foreigner;
and should guide, fail; then force!

But the process inevitably goes on; when the
whole world buys the warty stuff, and will accept
no other, the exploiter is still faced by ^{diminishing}
returns. No possibility of expansion; sooner or later
dividends dwindle, and the Business is Bust.

To even the most stupid it becomes ^(at this stage) plain that
war is wholly ruinous; organization breaks down
altogether; one meaningless revolution follows
another; famine and pestilence complete the job.

^{- when Osiris replaced Isis -}
Last time the wreck was limited in scope - note
that it was the civilized, the organized part that
broke down - Jews and Arabs could remain
aloof, and keep a small torch burning until Light
returned with the Renaissance. This time there is
no civilization which can escape being involved
in the totality of the catastrophe.

Towards this collapse all totalitarian move-
ments inevitably tend. Betts and Russell
himself admits that, although ^{himself} temperamentally

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5) "Anarchistic", Society must be yet more organized than it is to-day if it is to exist at all.

But this, as Garet Garrett shows, is the John Gilpin type of horsemanship. We are to-day more or less - at the stage where "off flew Gilpin's hat and wig".

~~Failure~~ Achievement of high aims, which tends ultimately to the ~~well-being~~ prosperity of the republic, depends on the proportion ~~between~~ of masters and servants. The stability of a building depends on the proportion of superstructure to foundations. The rule holds good in every department of Nature. There is an optimum for every case. If there is one barber for 10,000 men, most of them will remain unshorn; if there are 5,000 barbers, most of them will be out of a job.

Apply this measure to society; there must be an optimum relation between industry and agriculture, between town and country. When the proper balance is not struck, the community must depend on outside help, importing what it lacks, exporting its surplus.

6) This is an unnatural state of affairs; it results in business, and therefore ultimately in war. That is, as soon as the stress set up by the conditions becomes insupportable. So long as "business" is confined to luxuries, no great harm need result; but when interference with the flow of foreign trade threatens actual necessities, the unit concerned realizes that it is in danger of strangulation. Consider England's food supply; ^{Switzerland,} ^{Russia,} ^{China,} the U.S.A. can laugh at U-boats. England must support a Navy, a wealth-consuming, not a wealth-producing, item in the Budget. Similar remarks apply to practically all Government Departments. The minimum of organization is desirable; all artificial doctrinaire multiplication of works which produce no wealth is waste; and for many reasons (some absurd, like 'social position') tend to create fresh unnecessary necessities. Ad infinitum, like the fleas in the epigram!

When laws are reasonable in the eyes of the average man, he respects them, keeps them, uses his best powers to maintain them; therefore a minute Police Force, with powers strictly limited, is adequate to deal with the

A convention is laudable when it is convenient.

almost negligibly small criminal class. When laws are unjust, monstrous, ridiculous, that same average man becomes will be a criminal; and the law requires a Tcheke or Festapo with dictatorial powers and no safeguards to maintain the force. Also, corruption becomes normal in official circles; and is excused. I refer you to M^r. J. H. Thomas. One evil leads to another; the seven devils always take

possession of a house that is then swept and garnished to the point ^{at which} people find it unendurable.

But what is not all this beside the point? you ask.

No. It was useful to indicate this cumulative progression to social shipwreck because, to-day an obvious peril of the most menacing, in 1904 no sane person foresaw anything of the sort. But special knowledge alters things, and it is certain that the Masters anticipated, with great exactness of calculation, the way things would go in the political world.

Practically all the messages received during the "Cairo Working" (March-April 1904 &c) came to me through Owanda. No woman ever lived who was more ignorant of, or less interested in, anything to do with politics, or

1. Footnote. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, having fixed the increase of Income Tax at Three pence, proceeded to deprive the Insurance Companies by insuring himself against a rise of that sum!

Assumption is hardly to be taken if it is convenient.

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as safeguards to maintaining the peace. Also corruption becomes a normal in official circles; and is excused. I refer to Mr. H. Thomas, the evil leads to another; the law does always take possession of a house that is there swept and polished to the point ~~at which~~ ^{at which} people find it unprofitable.

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Cairo Working (March April 1904-5) came to me through Canada. No man ever lived who was more ignorant of, or less interested in, anything to do with politics, or

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8.) the welfare of the race; she cared for nothing but her personal comfort and pleasure. When the communications ceased, she dropped the whole affair without a thought.

She nearly always referred to the authors of these messages as "They"; when asked who "They" were, she would say haltingly and stupidly "the gods", or some equally unhelpful term. But she was always absolutely clear as to the instructions. The New Aeon was to supersede the Old; but my special

job was to preserve the Sacred Tradition, so that a new Renaissance might in due season rekindle the hidden Light. I was accordingly to make a Quintessence of the Ancient Wisdom and publish it in as permanent a form as possible. This I did in The Esquinox. I should perhaps have been strictly classical, and admitted only the "Publication in Class A" "A-B" "B" and "D" material. But I had the idea that it would be a good plan to add all sorts of other stuff, so that people who were not in any way interested in the real Work might preserve their copies.

This by the way: the essence of this letter is to show that "They", not me person but a number

9) acting in concert, ~~not~~ not only foresaw a planet-wide catastrophe, but were agreed on measures calculated to assure the survival of the Wisdom worth saving until the time, perhaps 300 or 500 years later, when a new current should revive the shattered Thought of mankind. The Equinox, in a word, was to be a sort of Rosetta Stone.

There is no other matter of incomparable importance: the Wars which have begun the disintegration of the world have followed, each at an interval of months, the operative publications of the Book of the Law. This again seems to make it almost certain that "They" not only know the Future, at least in broad outline, but are at pains to arrange it. I have no doubt that the advance of Occult Science is in the charge of a certain group of "Masters". Even the spiritually and morally, as well as the physically destructive phenomena of our age must be parts of some vast all-comprehensive plan.

Putting two and two together, and

then:

making 718, it looks ~~then~~ as if the Masters
reincarnated in, and helped to fulfill, the formulae
of the astrological succession of the Aeon.
~~The analogy~~. We have the secret of the Elixir of
Life, and could carry on in the same body indefinitely,
yet some Masters at least prefer to reincarnate in the
regular way, only taking care to waste no time in
discriminating, but to get back to the Old Reich and
pick up the New Tools with the minimum of delay.

This hypothesis does at least make ~~the~~ intelligible
their action in waiting for a full instead of
preventing it. It may also be that they feel that
human progress has reached its asymptote so far
as the old formula can take it. In fact, unless
we take one small view, there does not seem to be much
point in taking an action so fundamentally revolutionary
on the surface) as the pronunciation of a New Word.

~~Masters~~ But then (you will object, if an objection
at all) people like Lenin, Hitler, Mussolini, the Nikeds,
~~and~~ et hoc, et ceteris omnes, are loyal members
of the Masters, or the gods! Well, why not?