

Mahatma Letter 120

[The text here is that from *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett from the Mahatmas M. and K.H.*, transcribed and compiled by A. T. Barker, arranged and edited by Vicente Hao Chin, Jr. (Manila: Theosophical Publishing House, 1993).]

Letter Number 120

Received January 1884

[Introduction:] This letter is ... one of the most important letters in the book so far as the Theosophical Society — especially in the West — is concerned.

The Mahatma has just ordered two telegrams to be sent, one to Mrs. Kingsford and one to Mr. Sinnett, to notify both that Mrs. Kingsford should continue as President of the London Lodge. The telegram to Sinnett is short and to the point: “Kingsford must remain president.”

In this letter, the Mahatma suggests that the London Lodge should be administered by, at least, fourteen Councillors — “one half openly inclining towards the Christian Esotericism as represented by Mrs. K., and the other half following Buddhist Esotericism as represented by Mr. S.; all important business to be transacted by majority of votes.”

Although seemingly a rather fragile arrangement, the plan might have worked had it not been for a further complication. Early in December of 1883, Mrs. Kingsford and the Vice-President of London Lodge, Edward Maitland, issued a Circular which embodied a severe criticism of the teachings contained in Sinnett’s new book, *Esoteric Buddhism*. Understandably, this did not make for improvement in the harmony of the situation. In late January, 1884, Subba Row, in collaboration with “another still greater scholar” who, it is believed, was the Mahatma M., issued in pamphlet form a “Reply” to this Circular Letter. Subba Row sent this to H.P.B. with a covering letter, requesting her to forward it to the London Lodge. She did so on January 25, 1884. The full text can be found in *Esoteric Writings of T. Subba Row*, pp. 316-356.