



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I was listening to the radio in Beijing, the other week, and it struck me as being very odd that there exists, now, a hair doctor. So far, it appears that this specie of 'doctor' is confined to the United States (US), but one may assume that such 'professionals' will proliferate to other parts of the world, in the same way that athletes' foot has become an international problem. The US, already, sports foot doctors, known as podiatrists, and I am anxious to learn what will be the toffy name for hair doctors: Keratinologists? I do not know what this new kind of US doctor does, but I am guessing that it is something to do with hair transplants. But on which part of the body: Mons veneris; mons pubis; scalp? It is not very well known, but many people suffer from hair loss in their nether regions, but it is such a sensitive part of the anatomy that I cannot think that anybody would permit an operation to try to regrow hair in that part of the body. However, in these days, when cosmetic surgery is so popular, who knows. I went to see a podiatrist in Toronto, Canada, the last time that I made a formal visit to that iceberg country, and discovered that they are quacks of the first order. All that this podiatrist would suggest for my aching feet was to wear special arch supports. Huh! I hardly need him to tell me that I have flat feet! Who wouldn't have flat feet, standing around for hours at formal receptions, shaking hands with those horrid people, who call themselves Hongkong democrats. I'll tell you something, Grandchild, if you listened to the dribble of these people, it would turn up your toes. That is the reason that my feet ache so much, these days. I have informed Cathay Pacific Airways that, when I travel in Seat A-1, I need to have a special kind of slipper, one with high arch supports so that, when I go to twinkle, I shall not hurt my tootsies. To summarise the situation with regard to podiatrists, if this recognised US doctor is a quack, then, keratinologists must be quacks, extraordinaire.

It is very easy in this day and age to make claims that, in some respect, may be justified, but, as the saying goes, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. People are apt to make all manner of claims about this and that, but, when push comes to shove, the experts will be made known and the charlatans will find themselves, pinned to the wall and labelled for that which they, truly, are. Legislative Councillor Martin Lee is, well and truly, in trouble, now, mainly because he is seen to be acting in a manner, which is contrary to the good of Hongkong. I do not know his motives in going to Washington, D.C. and giving evidence before the US Senate on the matter of Hongkong, his home for many decades. What does he hope to accomplish? The US Government cannot interfere in the affairs of China, proper, of which Hongkong is a sovereign part. The matter of Universal Suffrage for Hongkong is a matter for the Government of China to consider and, if thought fit, to grant to the people of its four hundred and sixteen square miles, known as Hongkong. As with a keratinologist, he may make all kinds of claims in respect of hair growth, but, at the end of the day, if no hair sprouts, then, he must wear the hat of a quack. So, it must be for Legislative Councillor Martin Lee. If his acts are known not to be in the best interests of the people that he is bound to serve, then, he must be considered in the same category of a quack. It is an undeniable fact that the Russian Federation, at this juncture in its political history, is not ripe to take on the appearance of the structure of government as is prevalent in the US. Similarly, it is unlikely, at this juncture in the political development of Hongkong, that our seven million human inhabitants are ready to embrace the type

of democracy that is cherished by the population of the US. One must always bear in mind that the governmental structure of the US has taken about two centuries to develop to its current state; and, still, changes are taking place. It has the infrastructure to support it, whereas, Hongkong has little to no such infrastructure. This is not to say that, in the future, Hongkong will not be able to enjoy the privilege of electing the Chief Executive by the popular vote – which is the idea of Universal Suffrage – but for whom would they vote, today? The felon Chim Pui Chung? The felon Ch'ng Poh? The felon Albert Yeung Sau Shing? The Indian felon Obi Mohan? All of these people, when you speak to them, are very affable and, in the case of Obi Mohan, very colourful. All of them, also, are good businessmen. All of them have families. But the question is: Can they be trusted with the affairs of Hongkong? I have proved my worth, as has Grandpa – and I have flat feet to show for my hard work, while Grandpa has lost most of the colour of the hair on his head. Hey! Maybe I should take him to see a keratinologist?

Must rush, now.

Love you.

The Chief Lady of Hongkong

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