

Mrs. Hastings Defends H. P. B

Mrs. Beatrice Hastings, who was somewhat discouraged by the lack of support from theosophists for her H. P. B. defense, reports that she gave a lecture at which the hall was packed and many turned away. About half of the audience consisted of avowed theosophists. A feature was a talk by Christmas Humphreys, President of the Buddhist Lodge. Prominent theosophists of the British T. S. (Adyar) were conspicuous by their absence; probably they were at home still picking their vegetarian teeth after the Arundalian feast and, perhaps, shooting goodwill thought force as directed by the Doctor.

SHALL THE H. P. B. DEFENSE COLLAPSE?

I infer from correspondence of Mrs. Beatrice Hastings that her valiant defense of H. P. Blavatsky is not meeting with the encouragement and support she had hoped for. We all know how much more important it is for us to have a package or two of cigarettes or a box of face powder than to spare a shilling towards the defense of a greatly abused woman, H. P. Blavatsky, who literally sacrificed her life in helping little dunces like you and me. Some of us are willing to admit that we have received great benefits at her hands, benefits we could hardly have received in any other way. For this we believe ourselves grateful. But defend her? No. As one woman wrote me: "If the Masters want H. P. B. defended they are amply able to do it themselves without my aid; if they don't do it, it is because they think it needless." Now what do you think of that? This lady who claimed to be a theosophist was willing to take all she could get; but *give*? No; if she owes a debt to H. P. B. it is the Masters' business to pay it—a funny idea of karma, truly.

Of course we all know how poor many people are who would like to do much more than they are able to do. But there are some things which everybody can do. One is, to try to see what it means to undertake without personal financial resources a work which costs money, to sacrifice one's time and even one's health, as is the case in the present instance, just as it was with H. P. B. You should see this if your spiritual liver is not out of order, and give such encouragement as you can, and especially hold your tongue and refrain from circulating gossip and unfounded suspicions as to the motives of the one doing the work. I know something of such things; I know that whatever may be her failings nobody but a prime ass (male or female) could for a moment entertain the idea that Mrs. Hastings is prompted by personal motives of any sort. Financially certainly not, for a woman of established literary reputation and experience is not likely to pursue such a course for mercenary motives; she would know its hopelessness. And certainly not by undertaking the work of defending a greatly abused person with the almost sure reward of contempt on the part of a large part of the public.

Yet there are such, so I hear; there are so-called theosophists—they call themselves theosophists though nobody with a spark of discernment would call them such—who are not only indifferent but actually hostile and who let their tongues wag. Just what the mentality of such persons is is not my business to decide. I suspect that being too incompetent or too lazy to do anything themselves they are moved by a feeling of jealousy toward those who are competent and willing. What I would like to do is to hold up before such persons a magic mirror which would show them just what they are—dogs in the manger. We have a strong and nasty expression which may apply here—"to do one dirt".

The defense of H. P. B. cannot be effected by making complimentary remarks about her, by calling her the Messenger of the Masters and such twaddle with which the theosophical journals are filled. That may go down with those who accept Theosophy as a Christian accepts the Apostles' Creed. But the fact is that we owe Theosophy to H. P. B. and that the public, for whom Theosophy is intended, looks on H. P. B. as a charlatan, and will therefore have none of her or her teachings. Those who are self-satisfied and who think themselves on the road to blessedness because *they* believe, but who will do nothing to help along are on the road, not to the heights to which Theosophy points the way, but to a sort of glorified selfishness which leads nowhere.

Perhaps these remarks will stir the ire of not a few theosophical pharisees. I hope they do; they are intended to do just that thing; a good attack of self-righteous indignation may end as a cathartic. Others, not self-righteous, but merely thoughtless, may see that they have been unintentionally neglecting a duty, the duty of repaying in what ways they can for benefits received.

Really, I have been astounded at the lack of interest. I have time and time again called attention to Mrs. Hastings' work and to the several H. P. B. defense books and pamphlets she has so far been able to issue with the aid of friendly theosophists. One might as well shout up the chimney to Santa Claus. Mrs. Hastings, in her faith that theosophists would be glad to have palpable evidence of the falsity of the charges against H. P. B. brought before the public, has gone ahead to the limit of her financial ability to carry out her plan. But there is a limit. Pamphlets cannot be printed unless the printer gets cash; cash cannot be secured unless the defense documents are sold, and an accumulation of unsold material offers little encouragement to proceed. If Mrs. Hastings fails in her attempt, what encouragement will there be for others to undertake it? If theosophists care so little for the reputation of the Founder of the Theosophical Movement how can the big public do otherwise than look on Theosophy as a creed held by visionaries who are spineless enough to take unreasoning credulity as a substitute for a love of Truth, and who can pass by on the other side of the road when they see their professedly honored Founder and Leader wounded by the attacks of slanderers?

"The Friends of Madame Blavatsky"; that is the name of the society started by Mrs. Hastings. Membership is one shilling (or twenty-five cents) or as much more as one is willing to donate, to be sent to Mrs. Beatrice Hastings, 4 Bedford Row, Worthing, Sussex, England. To save you trouble the CRITIC will be glad to receive and forward remittances accompanied by 5 cents extra for postage. A membership card will be sent in due course. A list of the Hastings defense documents so far published will be found elsewhere in this CRITIC.

The O.E. Library Critic, Vol XXVI, January 1939, No.2, p.9

Friends of Madame Blavatsky. — An examination of the partial list of about 550 Members of the Friends of Madame Blavatsky society, given by Mrs. Hastings in Nos. 5 and 6 of her *New Universe*, reveals some interesting points. This list contains, besides a few scattering:

England, Scotland and Wales	109
Canada	108
U. S., incl. P. R. and Hawaii	89
South America	76
Sweden	73
India	24

Australia	19
Holland	17

The U. S., with an Adyar Section of about 4,047, to say nothing of others, as Point Loma and U. L. T., musters only 89, while Great Britain, with 3,300 Adyar members, turns out only 109. Canada, with but a small Adyar membership, deserves the prize—it equals Great Britain. The Canadian Section is known to be strongly for Blavatsky. The Swedish members are mostly Lomaites, while those from India are mostly U. L. T. members in Bombay. The U. S. and British figures are a disgrace, indicating that theosophists in these lands care more for Forward to Leadbeater and Arundale than Back to Blavatsky. Incidentally, the CRITIC, which has been defending H. P. B. for 22 years, has but a few subscribers on the list, and some who once were such. This gives the CRITIC Editor a pain in the stomach.

The O.E. Library Critic, Vol XXVI, January 1939, No.2, p.10

Mrs. Hastings' "New Universe", No. 6.—Despite illness and other obstacles Mrs. Hastings has gotten out another issue of *New Universe* (No. 6) of the Blavatsky defense series. I think it the best yet, but I don't intend to tell you much about it, for if you want to know you can send us 15 cents for a copy. I will only say that she dissects one S. H. Radcliffe, a hack reviewer who effervesced joyously in *The Spectator* (London) over the Hare Brothers' book, *Who Wrote the Mahatma Letters?* Also I reprint in this CRITIC one of the articles about H. P. B. which, I must say, reminds me of some of the difficulties with which Mrs. Hastings herself has to contend.

The O.E. Library Critic, Vol XXVI, January 1939, No.2, p.13

Friends of Madame Blavatsky: Financial Statement.—It appears from the financial statement for 1938 that the Society of the Friends of Madame Blavatsky shows a deficit of over 14% which, I suppose, was met by Mrs. Hastings herself. Yet there are those who imagine that she is doing this work for a personal profit! I say such persons need to be fumigated. Anybody who thinks that a profit can be made out of membership fees at one shilling (paid only once) and occasional donations is a prime ass.

The Canadian Theosophist, Vol. XX, June 1939, p.114

The statement made last month by Mrs. Hastings should have been accompanied by the information that the original statement of funds and its audit by a Chartered Accountant has been placed in our possession here in Hamilton along with the list of subscribers to date, as being safer from German or other raiders here than in London. Anyone who wishes to consult it or refer to the list of subscribers to assure themselves of the receipt of their donations may apply to us. It should not be necessary to take such precautions, but there is a streak of incredulity in many of our Theosophists, if not suspicion, as though good works are not to be expected from anyone who devotes himself to the Cause. Mrs. Hastings has not "escaped calumny" though really beyond the level where such meanness could be effective. She now awaits the support of all who have the love of H. P. B. in their hearts, or the sense of justice in their brains, to come forward and assist the publication of the new volume of the "Defence" dealing with the notorious Solovyoff misrepresentations. [See THE SAME OLD STORY, C.T., May 1939]

The Canadian Theosophist, Vol. XX, July 1939, p.146

Mrs. Beatrice Hastings writes that she is labouring with the refutation of Solovioff as with an Old-Man-of-the Mountain, but sees that in time he will be thrown into the sea and definitely disposed of. Those who have read and been deceived by this plausible but rascally book will be glad of the analysis from Mrs. Hasting's incisive pen, which has been already seen at work in the issues of *New Universe*, and volumes One and Two of *The Defence of Madame Blavatsky*. The Solovioff inquest will constitute the Third volume of the series, but there may be another issue of *New Universe* before Solovioff is finally disposed of in Tophet where he properly belongs.

The Canadian Theosophist, Vol. XX, October 1939, pp.241-242

Mr. Frank Ranicar writes from Wigan, Lancashire, England, as follows: "I have just returned from Worthing where I spent several days with Mrs. Hastings at the H. Q. of F. M. B. The impression I got was that if we are going to see Defence Vol. III in the near future, we shall have to convince Mrs. Hastings that there is a market for it. The most effective way of doing this would be to take off her hands the remaining copies of Vols. I and II for distribution to the Free Libraries. In this connection my own experience of the Wigan Library may prove of interest. A short time ago I presented a copy of The Mahatma Letters to the Wigan Library, and prospective students thereof were advised as follows: 'For a work aiming to show that the Mahatma Letters are not genuine see "Who wrote the Mahatma Letters?" by H. E. Hare & W. L. Hare.' Needless to say the Librarian, when tackled, was obliged to accept a complete set of Defence Literature. This shows that we are at War in more ways than one." The Volume III referred to here deals with the notorious Solovioff and his treacherous and false account of what he alleges he learned from Madame Blavatsky. He carefully waited till she was dead before making his false statements. Mrs. Hastings assuming the role of the Higher Critic, pulls his assertions to pieces and shows how foundationless they are. To get them into print she needs the sale of the first two volumes to be pushed and the New Universe pamphlets with their revelations of similar slanders by other traitors so that the money sunk in their publication may be turned into the new exposures of deceit and villainy.

[See BEATRICE HASTINGS ON THE F.M.B., *C.T.*, Dec. 1939]
