

“FRIENDS OF BLAVATSKY”

New Universe, Mrs. Beatrice Hastings’ knight-errancy for Madame Blavatsky has reached its sixth issue and is mighty in its championship of the “greatest genius of the nineteenth century.” Mrs. Hastings takes up the review by Mr. S. K. Ratcliffe in which he uses The Hare Brothers’ attack on the Mahatma Letters as a peg upon which to hang an attack upon Madame Blavatsky. She says: “It is absolutely certain that the grotesque reviewers above-mentioned do not know why they attack Madame Blavatsky, why they carve her up. To know why they do it they would need to study the charges made against her and also to read her writings. The least glance at their articles shows that they have neither studied the charges nor read her writings. They just play the poll-parrot. They slander at second, at hundredth hand, adding to the ‘evidence’ nothing but their own signature, a signature of not the slightest value, being inadmissible in any court. They repeat what other adversaries of Madame Blavatsky have said about her books. If the adversaries make a wrong quotation or falsify a quotation, so do the reviewers, copying down with a servility that would be amusing were it not so stupid. . . . If these reviewers pretend to some moral right in their attacks, one can answer immediately: ‘You have no right at all to attack Madame Blavatsky, for your articles show that you have studied neither the charges against her nor her writings’.”

And she adds: “Believe it— that long foul dastardly campaign against H. P. Blavatsky, carried on with the aid of almost the whole Press, a huge iniquitous LIE of a campaign, a FRAME-UP comparable for impudent villainy with any ever known, believe it that this tragic attempt to incriminate and blot out and murder a woman of such genius has played a horrible part in the slide towards barbarism. An injustice of that sort, repeated and repeated year after year is a poison in the human atmosphere, renders it unstable.” She adds this warning: “It is the duty of Theosophists to call the attention of people all over the world to the ‘Defence of Madame Blavatsky’ which I have prepared with enormous pains and to protest against the repetition of slanders, baseless always and now being one by one refuted. And do not reply that you are doing your duty by reading *The Secret Doctrine* and teaching it to others. That would be to class yourself with a man who should hear people saying that his benefactor was a swindler and should reply that he was too busy spending the fortune to bother about that.” It is perhaps natural that the kind of people who have slandered Madame Blavatsky should also feel moved to busy their poison tongues about Mrs. Hastings. But in the face of such opposition and in spite of the many obstacles to be met in such a campaign as she has inaugurated, she carries on gallantly.

She should have all the help and encouragement that students of the Wisdom can give. Send 25 cents or as much as can be afforded to Mrs. Hastings and join the “Friends of Blavatsky” at 4 Bedford Row, Worthing, Sussex, England. Or send \$2. and get the issues to date of *New Universe* and *The Defence of H.P.B.*
