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Mrs. Beatrice Hastings' campaign in Defence of Madame Blavatsky has not apparently enlisted the sympathy of professing Theosophists as might have been expected. It is the usual experience with those who ally themselves with an organization and learn soon to think more of the machine than of what it was intended to do, more of the plough and harrow and reaper than of the crop and harvest. It is so obviously and logically the proper thing to do that it hardly seems possible that any genuine Theosophist would hesitate a moment before throwing his energy and influence into this Defence work, for it means, not helping the handful—comparatively—of people who are members of Theosophical bodies, but enlisting the sympathies of the whole world to a cause which has as much of dramatic interest as the Defence of Dreyfus, or the effort to free the framed-up Thomas Mooney, or the battle for Dr. Moeller in Germany. Madame Blavatsky and her cause means a thousandfold more to the world than any of these, and it means them as well, and it means truth and justice for all popular causes, and the rectification of all social and national evils under the spread of the Gospel of Universal Brotherhood. Convince the world that Madame Blavatsky was not a fraud as the self-opinionated young man of 22 decided and the shallow thinkers of the S. P. R. in 1885 agreed, and that she was a pioneer in science, in religion, in philosophical thought, in literary genius, and that the Victorians were blind in this as in so much else and that Madame Blavatsky belongs to the present age and not to the effete *fin de siecle* of the nineties, and we will begin to get somewhere and the world will see a new sunrise and a new Morning Star.

Send 25 cents or a dollar or ten dollars to Mrs. Hastings at 4 Bedford Row, Worthing, Sussex, England, and become one of the Friends of Blavatsky and own a happy conscience in having discovered something better than an Empty Shell.

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“NEW UNIVERSE” No. 3

Mrs. Hastings' third issue of *New Universe* is filled to the brim with what it is designed for—“defence of Madame Blavatsky.” The “Friends of Madame Blavatsky” are extending their organization, and we commend this work to all who take a directly personal interest in the life-work of this greatest of modern teachers. Mrs. Hastings has no other purpose than to gain her a hearing, and to do this it is necessary in all truth and justice to clear away the accumulation of falsehood which the Society for Psychic Research began to pile up in 1885. The way in which Mrs. Hastings proceeds is to take one incident after another, place it in its original setting, supplying the background and all the details, most of which are omitted in the S. P. R. charges, and the exhibit speaks for itself. It is a complete demonstration which gives the average reader more pleasure than he gets out of the average detective story, for he feels he is dealing, not merely with actual living flesh and blood, but with one of the greatest issues of the age—organized prejudice versus the ancient wisdom.

Dr. Stokes describes one of these analyses where evidence is fully dissected as a complete exoneration and that “not even the Sunday newspaper will allure you to lay it down before you read it (the Hastings' analysis) through.” She regards the clearing of Madame Blavatsky's reputation as on the same high plane of duty as that which Emile Zola undertook in the Dreyfus case and she quotes Anatole France in his funeral oration over the dead novelist. “Let us not pity him because he suffered. Let us envy him: Let us envy him because his great heart won him the proudest of destinies. He was a moment in the conscience of man.” Zola “knew that there is no serenity save in justice—no repose save in Truth.” That is the goal in the

task of setting Blavatsky before the world in her actual nobility. How is this to be done. Mrs. Hastings says: "Before I get through with my volumes the whole of the charges will have been dealt with. I have resolved to go on until every attack has been met." The Friends of Blavatsky will learn these truths and communicate them to all they can reach. So we must all become acquainted with these cases of injustice and misrepresentation and get the world to see the facts until the scandalous and libellous Report of the S. P. R. with all its falsehoods has been withdrawn. She mentions the slur in Chesterton's autobiography to show that there is a need for such purging of the record. He speaks of Madame Blavatsky as "a coarse, vigorous old scallywag," and because he is a prominent writer and a Roman Catholic he is allowed to say these things. Mrs. Hastings places him where posterity will find him if it cares to look. She also has what "J.R." would call a tilt, with "J.R." (Mrs. Ransom) herself, and indicates that to say the least Advar lacks the co-operative spirit in defending Madame Blavatsky. "J.R." would prefer to squelch Mrs. Hastings apparently, than support her.

The 12th case Mrs. Hastings deals with in the present Review is that of the fraudulent or forged letters used by the Christian missionaries which they procured from the Coulomb's, discharged servants who had been befriended at Adyar. The Christian Literature Society reprinted these thirteen years after Madame Blavatsky died, no doubt feeling that it was quite safe to do so. They had not reckoned on a Mrs. Hastings. Only four of these letters were ever produced and she deals with them now. Case 13 is the Kiddle incident. She deals with this in a way that only a skilled writer could suggest. Cases 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. and 19 must be left to the reader who will enjoy the humour as well as the shrewd sense with which the charges are picked to pieces.

Vol. 3 of the Defence is being delayed in order to obtain a plan of the Occult Room by the Architect who designed it. Meanwhile the *New Universe* will continue its merry and instructive way, and those who send a quarter or a dollar or more to the address, 4 Bedford Row, Worthing, Sussex, England, will receive according to their generosity. Cheques and P.O.O. should be payable to Beatrice Hastings.

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Mrs. Hastings' letter which appears elsewhere in our columns deals pretty fully with the progress of the "Friends of Blavatsky" movement to clear her name of unjustifiable assertions and misrepresentations of her work and character fabricated by young Dr. Hodgson under instructions from the S.P.R., and to work for the withdrawal of that Report by the present S.P.R. authorities and thus do justice to their own reputation and remove the stains they have tried to place on the reputation of an innocent and self-sacrificing woman, who laboured for the Truth and the service of humanity entirely at her own expense and without asking personal assistance from anyone. We advise all who read this to send their 25 cents to Mrs. Hastings, 4 Bedford Row, Worthing, Sussex, England, and so receive their card of membership as one of "The Friends of Madame Blavatsky." Meanwhile they can do nothing better than read the late Charles Johnston's article about her, reprinted in *The Theosophical Quarterly*, April issue, from P. O. Box 64, Station O, New York City, price 50 cents.
