

BEATRICE HASTINGS ON THE F. M. B.

Editor, *Canadian Theosophist*: — Dear Sir, Mr. Ranicar's letter concerning the F.M.B. and the Defence of Madame Blavatsky certainly touches the financial spot, but, in any case, I do not feel inclined at present to issue any more books. I have repeatedly said that books without a big crusade will be of little force. They can be quietly ignored. Recently I have received various laments about Mr. Harry Price's references "Fifty Years of Psychological Research" to Hodgson's Report and Madame Coulomb's ridiculous pamphlet. He has the brazen impudence to ignore my books, although he wrote to me that he thought them very important and wondered how the S.P.R. would react. But why should he worry to do justice to H.P.B.? If the F.M.B. had gone forward as I was leading it, things would have been very different. No one would dare to ignore us by this time. The little cabal of four Theosophists, with a person whom I call my Coulomb, who have temporarily smashed the power of the F.M.B., have something to answer for! This "Coulomb" wanted me to lease (letting off flats) a large house where (main consideration) he would have free quarters in return for doing as little as he could. When he understood that I hoped that the F.M.B. would *never* go in for any kind of speculation and that I would never allow headquarters anyway to become a rich affair, I got an enemy; and he found very easy friends among those who were annoyed at the way I ran things and who wanted control. Control! *Never* have I had from any one of them a single constructive idea! They have not a glimmer of the way to run a public campaign of this sort—a real war against bitter and unscrupulous enemies who have all to lose. They could not even comprehend that the last thing we should do would be to let the adversary know our strength, especially financially. They know it now—next to nothing. Of course the thing was only possible because I gave all my labour for nothing. They pretended to suspect me! But, however foolish their minds, they must have known that any society would have paid me large sums to do such work for them as I have done for the cause of H.P.B. In truth, even any expert hack would have wanted a minimum guarantee of at least a thousand pounds for such years of labour. I must say that I feel a kind of shame to reflect that my work must benefit the whole Theosophical Movement present and future, this movement, which seems to me so abjectly below Madame Blavatsky. However, my object was to clear her name, and that I have done so far, with every stroke of my pen. This is a reward in itself.

I must not take up too much of your space so will proceed about the F.M.B. All the loyalists will be glad to hear that it has stood absolutely firm. Not one resignation. For the last time, I give an inside detail, saying that we have over a hundred new members since the "row." Money has been offered me for Vol. 3, but Vol. 3 will not come out until the F.M.B. is once again a power. Here are a few of my ideas about it.

The F.M.B. shall never own so much as a hut of its own or more goods than can be removed in a cart. It may hire rooms or accept the loan of a place—with no notion of this being any favour and prepared to be turned out at the whim or necessity of the lender.

No money donated shall ever be invested. It shall all be spent right away on the world-wide propaganda necessary to change the current in favour of H. P. Blavatsky. When a hundred million people have at least heard that there is another side to her case, we shall have got on the way. That is about the number who have now heard nothing but abuse of her, the majority of the world's reading population.

The finance and expenditure is not at all a complicated affair. So long as I live, or until we win, all money will be spent to produce some effect on the public, for I should never agree to any hole and corner action with the S.P.R. H.P.B. has to be as publicly vindicated as she was publicly dishonoured.

"New Universe" must be kept going. It does not pay. I have paid the deficit out of the sales of my books.

That cannot go on. If necessary, I shall have to introduce other matter than the “Defence” and maybe that would be a good thing, as certainly a wider public could be thus bamboozled into listening to what I have to say about H.P.B.

At present, I am doing nothing but hold on and wait. Time and tide wait for no man but, as someone said, man has to wait for time and tide. There is plenty of money among the professing followers of H.P.B. I see it wasted on all sorts of rubbish. Let some of it flow our way! Mr. Ranicar has taken over the job of distributing to public libraries as fast as the funds come in. I myself have given over a hundred sets, but of course I cannot keep that up. In fact, that value should be returned to me as I should certainly not be asked or allowed to do more than I can without causing my own small income to shrink. And while I am being thus frank, let me say that not a soul has ever considered that, by squeezing myself as I have done, instead of that helping the work it actually decreases my efficiency. One needs more, not less, comfort and service when doing a heavy labour of this kind! However, let that go, as H.P.B. used to say. She never got much consideration either of that sort until she began to break up under the strain.

The first work for the F.M.B. is to get the books I *have* written distributed so that people can read them, then we can talk about more.

War does not diminish people’s interest in other things except at first. On the contrary, as time goes on, they will flock to meetings. If we hold another lecture in London we shall be soon in our first stride again. I am getting well, in fact, am well now, except for an occasional sudden vision of tomahawks when I think of the foolish persons who so nearly pulled down our house about our heads—and who have neither resigned nor apologized.

It seems a most amazing thing that so many Theosophists should be either hostile or apathetic to this campaign! I can only conclude that they *do not want* H. P. Blavatsky. Certainly she would be rather a big weight for some of their little applecarts, tremendously got up and gilded though some of these are. As for the F.M.B., although started by me, an outsider who does not share many of their notions of Theosophy and whose life and personality would not suit them at all perhaps—the F.M.B., although a public affair, is an effort to redress an injustice to their FOUNDER, and they ought to be ashamed of themselves for sticking in their holes and doing nothing to help.

A last word, on politics. I suppose by this time people have begun to understand that “politics” ceased long since and that the real term is Defence of Liberty. With Holland under water this morning, our numerous Friends in that country must be desperately realizing that no-one is safe today. And, make no mistake, the defence of Liberty is the affair of everywhere in the world now. Live you on a coral island or at the Poles, you will not escape the general destiny, to fight or be slaves. Those in the Theosophical Movement who talk puff about “politics” forget that H.P.B. fought at Mentana for Liberty and, also, that the Master K. H. himself sponsored the “Phoenix” venture, a purely political effort to create a better feeling between English and Indians. It was only dropped when Sinnett, under a terrible test, showed that he would be willing to do a dirty piece of work, and the Chohan had no more use for him.

Please excuse the length of this letter. To close, if the Masters want this F. M. B. to go on—it will go on, no matter what anyone does or does not do.

Yours sincerely,
Beatrice Hastings.

4 Bedford Row, Worthing,
Sussex, England, November 11.

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Mr. Frank Ranicar, Springfield House, Wigan, Lancashire, England, mentioned in Mrs. Hastings' letter, is a naval reserve officer, ready to be called up if needs be. We are fortunate to have enlisted his enthusiasm, which we trust will stir many hearts among those who feel themselves loyal, but are slow to move in definite expression.

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Mrs. Beatrice Hastings' letter had sufficient importance to warrant the appeal of the front page to get everybody to read it. It will be the everlasting shame of the Theosophical Movement, Societies, members and all, if this magnificent effort to clear the name and fame of Madame Blavatsky of the vile slanders that have assailed it, is permitted to suffocate. The faint praise of some is no better than a gas attack. The failure of the well-to-do to support it is merely characteristic of the well-heeled. But the selfishness of those who have reaped so much benefit from the work of Madame Blavatsky and who do not lift a finger now to enable the millions who only know of her through the slanders of the Society for Psychic Research and its followers, is a canker that will keep them out of Paradise while one of these deluded ones remain to upbraid them for their neglect. The world awaits the Truth that is hidden by the cloud of malice and falsehood which has stigmatized H.P.B. as an impostor. Those who do not help to dispel that cloud are parties to the world's deception.
