

THE SAME OLD STORY

In the summer of 1936, the case for Madame Blavatsky looked on the floor; Messrs. Hare appeared to have given her the quietus. In 1937, thanks to the first vols. of "Defence of Madame Blavatsky," the situation was reversed; Messrs. Hare were on the floor, and many journals, including most of the big Indian Press, favourably re-opened their columns. Then, "New Universe" was started and received most uncommon notice for a review of the kind. Then, The Friends of Madame Blavatsky was launched and spread far and wide among the various Theosophical groups, with a stiffening of "outsiders," Spiritualists, Buddhists, Rationalists, Hermeticists and no *ists* at all, people interested simply in a case that comes under the universal defence of justice. Then, twenty thousand leaflets were printed and circulated with rapidity, leaflets giving the outline of the case. Then a London centre was opened; and lastly, the main purpose of this centre was achieved: through a public lecture, successfully organized, personal contact was made with the general public.

Of course, all this was much too successful, and the devil had to get busy. An attack that had been long brewing, almost from the start, was made on me. I am not going into the story of this attack here. It is the same old story and every detail of it might be matched from similar stories both inside and outside the Theosophical Movement. Money for printing, let alone my energy after a seventh attack of recurrent Flu since October, is low; also, my pen is worth more than that stuff in this tragic world. Briefly, an attempt has been made to get the F. M. B. out of my hands and under the control of a committee. As everyone knows, the success of the crusade so far has been largely due to the fact that I have remained entirely neutral towards all groups. When I state that recently I received a warning that if I admitted a certain Theosophist, a whole group who dislike him would resign, I think that the case for a committee looks altogether shaky. I feel sure that if I had had a committee, the F.M.B. would have died very soon after birth, strangled by Theosophical dissensions. Happily, it is organized on the simplest of bases: anyone can join who believes that the case of Madame Blavatsky is still open to discussion, that is, that there is reason to believe that she was unjustly condemned. Outside this basis, the F.M.B. has no concern with any member, Theosophist or non-Theosophist. Branches are left entirely free to organize as they please; and, later, a lecture-committee may come into being—but even in that I smell danger.

Finding no other way of getting control, two or three members hit on a brilliant idea, nothing less than to demand a balance-sheet. If I told what I know about this business, the F.M.B. in general would probably stand aghast. If, one day, my legatees publish the F. M. B. correspondence and my notes, there will be one more tale added to Theosophical history. Revenge, envy, stupidity, self-righteousness and sheer mischief. . . ! Of course, the idea was that I could not produce a balance-sheet and that I might be forced into a corner where I should be obliged to hand over the F.M.B.

In the "Theosophical Movement" for February, there are two articles, one by H. P. B. and one by Judge, both treating of the ingratitude of people who pretend to be in a cause, allow other people to work, and even to pay in all kinds of unboasted ways, for the cause and then criticize and grumble, when they do not actively plot and attack. I could endorse almost every word of those articles and could add this: There are people who do contribute towards a cause who could never be convinced that they had had their *money's* worth; these are natural, if unconscious, allies of plotters.

As will be seen from the Report published below, the total of subscriptions and donations would scarcely cover the salary of a secretary. I have voluntarily done the secretary work so as to free the funds for public

propaganda. (My literary acquaintance who know that I refuse to do even reviewing—my small but solid income relieving me of any necessity to write for pay—will smile at the *honorarium* (of slander!) I have had for doing common office work!) The list of subscriptions is not quite illustrative as many members besides subscribing have bought the books and subscribed to “New Universe;” this accounts for some of the curious sums acknowledged, the amounts having been deducted, by request of course.

The rent of the London rooms was paid by Miss Debenham and the Blavatsky Association through the Hon. Mrs. Davey; this was paid in immediately and does not come in the Report. Before the F. M. B. was started, certain monies were sent to me towards printing. I give these monies below although they are not concerned in the Report. The office fittings include a suite of furniture that I ceded at about one-fifth its value, a glass book-case, rugs, curtains, cushions and other things. I have only made one error. I think, in the stationery; about five pounds of this should be deducted, but if anyone wants to know why, they may do so by paying for the Report to be done all over again. As members will see, the result of all this botheration is to show that the F.M.B. must owe me over twenty pounds! I confess I laughed. You see, all profits from books and all my spare money has been thrown in and I never asked for a receipt. I don’t want one either; the money has gone in the cause and that’s all about it.

But now, I am never going to repeat this experience of three months’ waste of me, turning all my nice neat files and boxes and *hundreds* of letters upside down, for every shilling sub had to be accounted as if it were a hundred pounds, owing to the fact that I had not kept a separate banking account. I never thought of it! Every name, address and sub. had to be done out; all those names of people that I wrote down in love and cheerfulness had to be done with grudging and indignation, not against them of course. For awhile, all seemed changed and covered in mud. If it is any satisfaction to the meanest enemy to know all this, let them have it!

FRIENDS OF MADAME BLAVATSKY

4 BEDFORD ROW, WORTHING.

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1938.

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
	£	s	d		£	s	d
To Subscriptions Received				By Postages	24	0	4
as per list, F.M.B.	92	2	8	” Stationery	18	1	6
” Donations	88	2	10	” Advertising and Printing	85	2	9
” Excess Expenditure over				” Fares and Expenses	38	3	8
Receipts	29	18	8	” Telephone	6	8	5
				” Office Fittings	13	12	6
				” Office Expenses	11	9	6
				” Clerical Assistance	3	7	0
				” Rent	3	0	0
				” Sundries	6	18	6
	£210	4	2		£210	4	2

I have prepared the above Receipts and Payments Account from the records and information and explanations given to me by Mrs. B. Hastings, and I certify this to be in accordance therewith. I hold the certificate of the amount owing to the Treasurer.

Date, 2nd March, 1939.

OLIVER F. LOVELOCK,
Chartered Accountant.

As well, slanderous gossip has gone far and wide and the worst effect created against the credit and stability of the F.M.B. There is no doubt that the troops are in retreat. I am far too unwell to undertake the

most difficult of all tasks, pulling up troops in retreat. If they do not pull themselves up, the F.M.B. will perhaps become an exoteric association. Meanwhile, I am taking a line that will make me immune from any attacks of the sort in future. Members may join the F.M.B. *free* or they may send their shilling or more: but all money sent must be sent as a personal gift to me without conditions. Those who object to this have a simple remedy: they need send nothing.

If ever the funds got beyond my arithmetic and to the point where I could pay a secretary, we could return to the original position, where, apparently, anyone who does *nothing* but pay a shilling can attack me legally if I am a shilling out.

While I was immersed in the slime of this attack, I was told by a Theosophical authority that certain members of the British Adyar group intend to approach the S.P.R. for withdrawal of Hodgson's Report on the strength of—*Miss Mary Neff's book!* Miss Neff's book, however useful as a compendium of H. P. B. story, is no answer to Hodgson's Report, and of course the scheme is simply a bare-faced bit of double-crossing, an attempt to snatch the credit from the F.M.B., not to say myself as the writer of the "Defence." Why it should be presumed that the present S.P.R. who are aware that the whole Press knows of my books, would connive at such trickery, I know not. But I can assure the schemers that the archivists of the S.P.R. certainly know what I have discovered, namely, that the credit of the S.P.R. is not mortgaged by Hodgson's Report but is mortgaged by the Solovyoff book. The case against the S. P. R. is graver even than I thought. My Vol. 3, dealing with Solovyoff, has been three parts done for some time and when it appears, the S.P.R. will scarcely think it worth while to dispute Hodgson's Report. It is a longish book and must not be skimmed. Except for all this fuss, it would probably be finished, but I cannot say for sure, as the artist in me always has to be obeyed; a little circumstance that some overlook—but so it was overlooked in poor Blavatsky whose martyrdom *as an artist* some artist will yet describe. Probably we have not one half that she might have written.

List of donations received before F. M. B. started: Mrs. Henderson, one pound ten; Miss Keane, five guineas; Miss Debenham, twenty-five pounds; per the Hon. Mrs. Davey, seven and six; Mr. H. R. Cox, one pound seven; Mrs. Henderson, one guinea; Mrs. Cleather, five pounds; Mr. Cyrus F. Willard, one dollar; Mrs. Henderson, ten pounds.

Donations after F.M.B. started: Mr. M. Freeman, thirteen and six; Mr. H. Berman, one shilling; Miss Debenham, three pounds fourteen; Mr. A. Smythe, one shilling; Mrs. Emily Williams, two and six; Miss Ward, three and six; Miss Keane, twenty-five pounds; Dr. Irene Hudson, fifty pounds; Mr. Basil Crump, two pounds six and six; Mrs. Henderson, five pounds. (Miss Bingham, ten shillings: omitted; given by hand at lecture.)

The printing of vol. I. was paid for by my brother, myself and Dr. Wallace who gave me five pounds by inspiration at the critical moment. This first book paid, being largely bought by literary people and collectors of first editions; and I bought the books and records I needed. Vol. 2 would scarcely have paid except for the donations towards the heavy cost of printing; these enabled me to throw the returns into "New Universe" and the general funds. I am still waiting for many Theosophical Lodges to think it worth while to buy the defence of her to whom, as they say, they owe everything.

B. H.