

Madame Blavatsky.

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky was born at Ekaterinoslow, Russia, on August 12, N. S., July 21, O. S., 1831. So delicate was she that the family decided upon immediate baptism under the rites of the Greek Catholic Church. She was the daughter of Col. Peter Hahn and granddaughter of Gen. Alexis Hahn von Rottenstern Hahn. On her mother's side she was the daughter of Helen e Fadeef and granddaughter of Princess Helena Dolgorouky. Her maternal ancestors were of the oldest families in Russia and direct descendants of the Prime or Grand Duke Ririk, the first ruler of Russia. One of the ladies of her family married the grandfather of Peter the Great and another was betrothed to Czar Peter II.

As a child she was the wonder of the neighborhood and the terror of the simpler serfs. Russia teems with superstition and omens, and as Helena was born on the seventh month, and between the 30th and 31st day, she was supposed by the nurses and servants to have powers and virtues possessed by no one else.

The education she got was fragmentary and inadequate, a fact to be remembered as of great importance when we take into consideration her erudition and remarkable fund of information in later years.

In 1848 she married Gen. Nicephore Blavatsky, governor of Erivan in the Caucasus, and soon after began a life of travel, of careful investigation of the foundation of all religions, and of search after knowledge, during which she visited Asia, Europe and America, landing at Quebec in 1851. She returned to Russia in 1858. Within those ten years she laid the foundation of a fund of knowledge such as has been possessed by no historical personage. After her return to her home she began a series of wonderful exhibitions of her psychic power which attracted the attention of the nobility of Russia.

It was in the United States she began the work that has made her name famous on three continents.

In 1874 we find her at New York, where, in 1875, with Col. Olcott and Mr. Judge, she established the Theosophical Society. For the use of the Society she wrote "Isis Unveiled." This book attracted wide attention, all of the New York papers declaring that it

exhibited immense research. The strange part of the writing of this book is that she had no library in which to make researches and possessed no notes of investigation or reading previously done. All was written straight out of hand, and yet it is full of references to books in the British Museum and other great libraries, and every reference is correct. Either, then, we have as to that book a woman who was capable of storing in her memory a mass of facts, dates, numbers, titles and subjects, such as no other human being ever was capable of, or her claim to help from unseen beings is just.

In 1878 Madam Blavatsky and Col. Olcott and two others went to India, where in Bombay they started the Theosophist magazine. There, in Bombay, and later in Adyar, Madras, Madam Blavatsky worked day after day and year after year editing her magazine and carrying on an immense correspondence with people in every part of the world interested in theosophy and also daily discussing with learned Hindus who constantly called. The Hindus believed in her, said always that she could explain to them their own Scriptures and philosophies where the Brahmims had concealed or lost the key, and that by her efforts and the work of the society founded through her, India's young men were being saved from the blank materialism which is the only religion the West can ever give a Hindu.

In 1885 Madam Blavatsky returned to England and started the theosophical magazine, Lucifer. Day and night there, as in New York and India, she wrote and spoke incessantly, corresponding with people everywhere, editing Lucifer, and writing books for the Theosophical Society. In London she wrote "The Secret Doctrine," "The Key to Theosophy" and "The Voice of the Silence." The reviewing of "The Secret Doctrine" for the Pall Mall Gazette was the step which led Mrs. Besant into the Society, in the work of which the mantle of Madam Blavatsky seems to have fallen upon her shoulders.

On May 8th, 1891, H. P. B. passed from this incarnation.

The aim and object of her life was to strike off the shackles forged by priestcraft for the mind of man. She wished all men to know that they are God in fact, and that as men they must bear the burden of their own sins, for no one else can do