

Editor LAMP:—The letter signed "A Lover of Theosophy" needs no more complete answer than can be found in the appended note by the editor of THE LAMP, who himself guilelessly tells the reason for the failure of the various theosophical organizations: "THE LAMP affords a neutral field in which, *without disloyalty to their respective Leaders*" etc., etc.

Alas—that before one may express an honest, sincere conviction—before one may give voice to the soul—he must first insure himself against possible disloyalty to a person.

Any one who will take the trouble to compare the ideals set forth by Blavatsky and Olcott in the early publications, with those outlined in any of the theosophical magazines of to-day, will find the answer.

From being an organization whose members recognized Truth as the only authority, we have declined to the level of quoting authority for Truth.

We began by presenting a philosophy, in place of which we now babble platitudes.

Then was offered a free field for the discussion of all subjects. Now discussion is limited to one subject and one point of view.

H. P. B. designed the pages of the official organs to be "like the many viands of a feast, where each appetite may be satisfied, and none are sent away hungry"—instead of which they now present their readers one article of diet—to be swallowed whole—or left. And each of the various organizations is as dogmatic as any church.

This is the one inevitable result of looking outside rather than within—of dwelling upon the particular in place of the Universal.

It is worse than idle to try and fix the blame upon any one person, or any one organization; it is more to the point to deal with the condition which to-day confronts us. The Law will take care of every detail of the entire past.

Admitting our error, surmounting—and so using—our weakness, let us cast organization—our subtlest snare-aside.

Let us deliver this noble philosophy from the stigma of personal leadership.

Let us present it to the people as a pure philosophy—unlabelled—unadulterated.

Let us give over expecting the people to come to us in our armoured enclosures.

Let us go—not to them—but among them.

And then—let us rely upon the Law—and the Truth will do for Humanity what personality never can.

HALCYONE.

VII

Mr. George M. Coffin is so well known that his practical suggestions will meet with the respect of the public as well as of those who have been associated with him in theosophical activities.

Editor of THE LAMP.—It must be apparent to members of all the various organizations to which the Theosophical movement has given rise in the past five years that with each succeeding division in the ranks its power for doing good effective work has become impaired. The latest phase has been the tendency to organize small branches independent of any larger body, and this has been the natural reaction from an effort on the part of such larger bodies to control the ideas and policies of the smaller bodies or branches and in some cases the individual expression of members.

By pretty general consent this disintegration is directly traceable to the influence of esoteric or inner bodies or societies which, originally intended as private schools for deeper students of Theosophy, have been perverted from this simple purpose and become secret oligarchies, either ignorantly or designedly controlling directly or indirectly the actions and even the words and thoughts of individuals.

It must be clearly evident to all Theosophists that such results are directly opposite to the original and plain purpose of the Theosophical movement, which was to encourage individuals to exercise the utmost freedom of thought, and by careful investigation of all the religious, philosophic