

The LAMP

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COLONEL OLCOTT.



HENRY STEELE OLCOTT was born near New York on the 2nd of August, 1832, and the astrologers predict his survival till October, 1915. Since the establishment of the Society's Head Quarters at Adyar near Madras he has resided pretty constantly there, engaged in his executive work, and in editing "The Theosophist." An occasional visit to the West has varied this routine, and in the present year he paid a visit to London which will be long memorable.

Ill health some few years ago led him to tender his resignation as President but the unanimous desire of the various Sections induced him to withdraw it, and during Mrs. Besant's visit to India last year, he expressed his renewed confidence in the progress of the Society and his resolution to permit nothing but death to sever himself from devotion to its welfare.

Those who work for Theosophy have many worldly sacrifices to make, and Col. Olcott is no exception. His position in the United States Army, one of great importance and responsibility during the Civil War, was the stepping stone to a distinguished political career. But, with other predilections, he gave up everything for the investigation of oc-

cult science. It was while acting as correspondent for a New York paper during the occurrence of spiritualistic phenomena at the Eddy homestead that he met H. P. B., who explained the laws governing these matters and gave his life a new direction.

His exquisite literary gift has been of much value to the Society, and his books "People of the Other World," "Posthumous Humanity," translated from D'Assier, "Theosophy, Religion and Occult Science," "Buddhist Catechism," etc., besides innumerable magazine articles, are standard contributions to modern theosophical literature.

His devotion to the Masters is well known. "Nobody knows better than myself the fact of the existence of the Masters," he recently declared, and he has spoken of four whom he has met personally. "You and I," he writes, "will never see Jesus in the flesh, but if you should ever meet — or one or two others whom I might mention, I think you will say that they are near enough our ideal to satisfy one's longing for the tree of humanity to put forth such a flower."

Like the Saracen maid of old, it is said H. P. B. kept up a perpetual enquiry for "Olcott" on first coming to New York. The choice thus evidently inspired has been fully justified in the world wide success of the Society he is so proud to serve.



HENRY STEELE OLCOTT.