

Personals.

* Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the poetess, is an F. T. S.

* Prof. James of Harvard University, a leading authority on psychology, is a member of the Harvard Branch.

* William Q. Judge prepared the definitions of theosophical terms in Funk & Wagnall's great Standard Dictionary.

* Mr. Clark Thurston, of the Providence T.S. whose annual visits to Toronto are looked forward to, has sailed for Europe.

* Dr. Griffiths left San Francisco for Victoria, B.C., on 18th August, to lecture for the Kshanti T. S. there. Mr. Hessey W. Graves is president, and Mr. William H. Berridge, 212 View street, secretary of the branch.

* Mr. Claude F. Wright opened the Buffalo T. S. last month. It is the 91st in the American section. Mr. William A. Stevens is president, and Mrs. Mary A. D. Newton, 644 Plymouth avenue, secretary.

* H. S. Olcott, A. P. Sinnett, Annie Besant, Bertram Keightley, W. Wynn Westcott, E. T. Sturay and C. W. Leadbetter have signed a homily on the text, "There is no religion higher than Truth." It is addressed to students of occultism.

* Countess Wachtmeister at Sioux City, Iowa, was permitted to lecture in the Y. M. C. A. hall, previously refused to Christian Scientists, Spiritualists and Unitarians. The secretary stated that the lectures were unobjectionable and was glad to have given the hall.

* Mr. Charles Johnston, B. C. S., M. R. A. S., the well known Irish theosophist and Sanskrit scholar, is a son of the celebrated Johnston of Ballykilbeg, the Unionist M. P. If we mistake not, Mr. Charles Johnston was a classmate of one of our Toronto members, at Gracehill academy, a quarter of a century ago. Erin go bragh.

* It is stated that the messengers of the Great Lodge sent out last century in the effort similar to the theosophical movement in this, were led by St. Germain, St. Martin, Swedenborg, Mesmer, Cagliostro, and Tom Paine. The recent life of Paine by Moncreux Conway has almost done as much to change popular opinion concerning him as Carlyle's Life of Cromwell did for the great Puritan. H.P.B. stated that St. Germain would be vindicated in the next century.

H. P. B.'s Versatility.

A gentleman who has probably made more discoveries in the ancient Kabbala than anyone else known to modern times, and who has devoted more than twenty years to this special line of work, once raised certain enquiries concerning his own researches and expressed the doubt that any man then living could or would answer his enquiries. A friend suggested that he should write to Madam Blavatsky in regard to the matter, and after some hesitation he did so. The result was nearly forty pages of very closely written MSS., answering every question he had raised and adding a fund of information that astonished the recipient beyond all measure. This gentleman is not and never has been a member of the Theosophical Society, but to the present time he declares his conviction that H. P. Blavatsky was the most profound and wonderful woman of this or of any age. He, a specialist for half a lifetime in an obscure and unknown field, found H. P. Blavatsky perfectly familiar with all his work. When we remember that this is said of a woman whose early education was not equal to that which is required of one who enters our High Schools it has increased significance.—F. E. TITUS.

Sacred Verses.

The Hindus know their most sacred verse as the Gayatri. It begins with the sacred word and letter OM, and may be translated thus:

"Unveil, O thou who givest sustenance to the Universe, from Whom all proceed, to whom all must return, that face of the True Sun now hidden by a vase of golden light, that we may see the truth and do our whole duty on our journey to Thy sacred seat."

The sutta or verse in which the Buddha summed up his teaching is rendered:

"To cease from all sin,
To get virtue,
To cleanse one's own heart,—
This is the religion of the Buddhas."

The Moslems regard the short 112th chapter of the Koran as equal to one-third of the whole Book in value.

"Say, He is God alone—
God the eternal;
He begetteth not and He is not begotten,
And there is none like unto Him."

*The resignation of Miss Simpson, of the local branch, has been accepted by the Toronto School Board, and she has gone to Manitoba.