

NOTES ON THE MAGAZINES.

Lucifer has dropped the "Clash of Opinion" as a caption, but continues on the personal issue somewhat strongly. "Unless America saves us from the necessity of demanding his expulsion, by seceding from the parent Society, Europe must endorse the demand." Which seems to mean Europe and Asia would refuse to act with the General Secretary of America's choice. It might have been well to await this refusal, but for the fact that the delay would have seriously injured theosophic work. If all these big people were dead the work would go on all the same. Can we not get over personalities before we die? Mr. Mead's "Plotinus" is very much more instructive than in the former part. "Two Houses" narrates a strikingly dramatic development. Perhaps the most interesting matter in the magazine are the notes by Mrs. Besant on Solovioff's book on H.P.B. We are all one there, sure enough, and although Mrs. Besant feels sad for those who she says have "cut themselves off," we are few of us good enough episcopalians to take that view of it. Branches are all autonomous and can do as they please, as may also the Fellows, and THE LAMP is acquainted with a number of F. T. S. who have not yet been able to discover a split, save where there is a lack of devotion to theosophic aspiration and effort. I candidly believe that the London Headquarters, Mrs. Besant included, ought to get a holiday and go off to Limerick, say, and drink buttermilk, or to the Scotch Highlands, where oatmeal is the prevailing tonic—any place where the situation might be contemplated from a quieter base, and where the healthy breezes would blow away some of the cobwebs and restore a little of the humour which would be the oil of gladness to some of these creaking and squeaking authorities. I am disposed to believe that Mrs. Besant doesn't see the joke of "the man in the street" yet, which shows how far she has roved from Erin.

Notes and Queries states the derivation of the name California from the romance of "Amadis de Gaul." Louis Claude Martin, the "Unknown Philosopher," or Saint Martin, was born at Amboise, in France, 18th January, 1743. He was the

author of a system of semi-masonic mystic degrees known as the Rectified Rite. His book, *Man; His True Nature and Ministry*, was translated by Dr. Penny in 1864. He considered Jacob Boehme "as the greatest light that has appeared on earth since Him who is the Light Himself." Boehme's voluminous writings are comprised in 1. *The Threefold Life of Man*; 2. *The Answers to Forty Questions Concerning the Soul*; 3. *The Treatise of the Incarnation in Three Parts*; 4. *The Clavis, or an Explanation of the Principal Points and His Expressions of His Writings*.

Atma's Messenger has a good stiff back anyway. The editor doesn't think *The Messenger* would be sufficient title for his paper. The abounding horse-sense displayed throughout his pages, however, incline one to pardon the "flap-doodle" of the name. Brother Fullerton gazes somewhat appealingly into futurity in the frontispiece. About a score of fraternal organizations, from the Governor's Foot Guard down to the Plumber's Union, are liberally dealt with. The editorial on the action of the Boston Convention, calling for united action in the face of petty differences, embodies ideas THE LAMP has strongly at heart. Page 31 also gives a very reasonable presentation of the facts as to the voluntary choice of their leaders at all times made by theosophists. The editor has discovered an "unpardonable sin" in our May issue. This comes of mixing up occult matters with the ordinary affairs of life. The man in the street would know better.

May Path has a fine article by Mr. Alex. Fullerton, though there is apparent a tendency to dogmatize on the subject of Masters. The line is very fine between personal belief and Society tenet. Four new instances of "Testimony as to Mahatmas" are given. "A Student's Notes and Guesses" is the most important article.

June Path begins a fine article on Reincarnation by Dr. Anderson, less technical than is usual from that gentleman's pen. Miss Hillard's "Principle of Duality" is very valuable as good counsel and wise thought. "J. N." gives a picture from Druid-dom. The other contributions are largely for the time present. Dr. Buck and Dr. Hartmann