

the stirring up of all the latent evil in a man's nature. If he be earnest and conscientious and persevering, in the course of eight or ten years he will overcome the more gross and powerful of these forces, and may transmute them into powers for righteousness. If it happens, as too frequently it does, that he sets up his own standards of ethics and morals, and depends upon some other guide than the monitions of conscience, the development of the personal self inevitably follows, and to such a degree, that toleration and the appreciation of the work of others becomes impossible. An utter inability to control the temper is a mark of this stage, qualified, in the face of all occult teaching to the contrary, as the exhibition of righteous indignation. The fact is, that until people have acquired the elementary virtues occultism becomes for them a gateway to hell. Strong language is necessary to express strong facts. No rule was more strict in the early days of the movement than that which forbade anyone to be invited to join the Esoteric Section. We must profit by experience.

So soon as the Esoteric bodies forsook their original purpose of proving man to be identical in spiritual and physical essence with the Absolute principle and with God in Nature, and of demonstrating within him the presence of the same potential powers as exist in the creative forces in Nature, and undertook to regulate the relations of their members with outsiders and to control their personal acts and opinions, just so soon disintegration began in the ranks of the Societies. Out of this arose the idea that the object of the movement was to train a body of occultists and to establish a Society which would survive under their supervision. Every worker in the movement can testify that he or she has made more converts to Theosophy than he has ever been able to induce to join the Society for which he worked. On this fact we must depend for the survival to 1975, as H. P. B. wished, of a body of thinkers who will be ready to greet with intelligent appreciation the Messenger who may then be expected.

The public can be depended upon to understand Theosophy and its principles quite as well as any now in the ranks, who studied and satisfied themselves before they joined. Certificates received and pledges taken have nothing to do with any man's or woman's connection with the Lodge. And the Master Himself declared that "no pledge could avail, suppose a pledge-order came to do something base or criminal." He that does the will of the Master is a servant to the Lodge, all opinion to the contrary. Those who best know the Master are least anxious about their outer status.

As a member of the Universal Brotherhood I must confess to some disappointment in observing its development. I had hoped for such breadth of action, such tolerance of opinion, such wisdom of utterance from it, that all thinking men would be forced to give it consideration. I had dreamed of co-operation with the churches and similar bodies through it, and I was even encouraged in such beliefs. Not seeing them approach realization I have, with a due sense of all the responsibility involved, raised the signal once more, and the response has been such as to gladden the heart and brighten the eyes of those who have watched long in the darkness. My fellow-members have been advised to burn *THE LAMP* as an evil thing. The Master has touched the pages here and there with a loving finger, and the flame that arises will glow when we who write and read are forgotten.

There are those who are ready in every society to aid any work that will bring Theosophy before the public. Mr. Coffin's suggestion that our public libraries should be stocked with our literature is one which we can all agree upon. Those who care to adopt his suggestion of a plebiscite or referendum can address their post cards to *THE LAMP* office. To assist in this, and braving the possible insinuation that it is merely a scheme to increase our circulation, I will make the offer some other magazines are now doing in these terms. We will allow half the amount of any new subscriptions sent to us, in one list