

PEACEFUL GROWTH, 1895—1905

FROM 1895, when the American Branches under W. Q. Judge seceded from the Society, till 1906 the history of the Society is one of continued undisturbed progress.

How greatly the message of Theosophy was needed in the world is evinced by the way that groups of Theosophists in the various countries of the world rapidly organised themselves, first into Theosophical Branches, and later into National Societies. The following record of the organisation of Branches, from the founding of the Society to the death of Colonel Olcott, shows how eagerly the message of Theosophy was welcomed by all, irrespective of race, creed, sex, caste and colour.

ORGANISATION OF THEOSOPHICAL BRANCHES BY QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS

1875—1880: England; Greece; Russia; India; Ceylon; Scotland.

1880—1885: United States of America (charters from India); Ireland; Java; British Borneo.

1885—1890: Sweden; Japan; Australian Continent; Philippine Islands; Austria; Tasmania.

1890—1895: New Zealand; Holland; Norway; Denmark; Spain; Germany; Argentine Republic; France; Dominion of Canada; Hawaiian Islands; Bohemia; Canary Islands; Bulgaria; China.

1895—1900: Switzerland; Italy; Belgium; South Africa; British Columbia, British West Indies; Nicaragua; Cuba; Mexico; Egypt; Finland; Algeria.

1900—1905 : Dutch East Indies ; Cuba ; Brazil ; Uruguay.

1905—1907 : Hungary.

Colonel Olcott travelled each year on the work of the Society, continually busy at the structural side of the Movement.

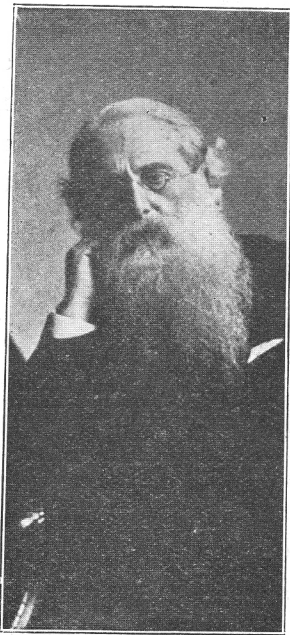


FIG. 149
H. S. OLCOTT

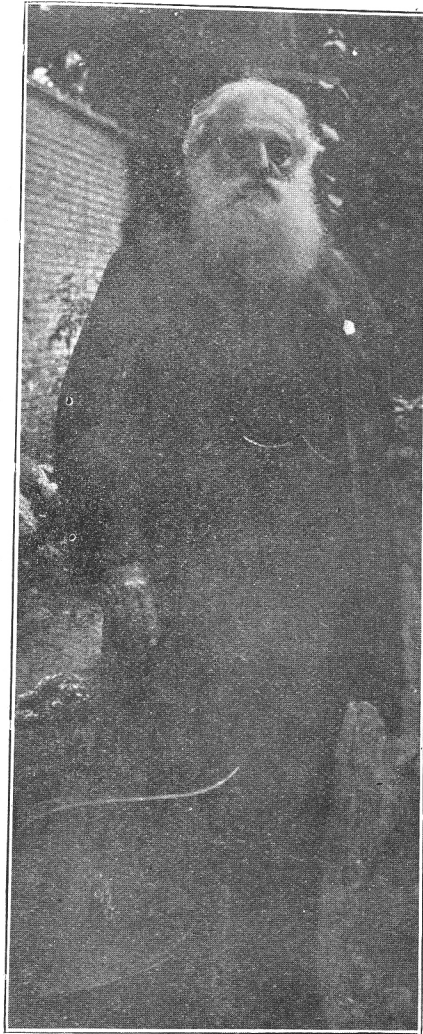


FIG. 150

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Many lecturers, of whom the foremost was Mrs. Besant, helped in all the countries where the Society was at work. In many new countries also, whenever the visit of a lecturer could be arranged,

work was begun. In 1901, Colonel Olcott sailed from India eastwards, and calling at Honolulu arrived in San Francisco. Then followed a long tour in the United States. He was present at the Convention of the American Section on May 25-27. In this year, C. W. Leadbeater spent six months in America, lecturing in most of the States. Colonel Olcott reached England in July, and in August sailed from Holland for Buenos Aires and Montevideo, returning in September to London, and finally reached Adyar towards the end of November.

Since the arrival of the Founders in Madras, the Annual Convention of the Society had been held at the Headquarters at Adyar. By this time, however, the Indian Section had grown, and owing to the vastness of the country, many members found it impossible to travel all the way from the north of India to the south for a brief Convention of four days. The General Council of the Society therefore altered the rule in the Constitution, and enabled thereafter Conventions to be held alternately at Benares and Adyar. The first of the Conventions at Benares was held in 1898. The rule was later further amended, enabling the Convention to be held every alternate year in Adyar and in any other city in India the Executive at Adyar might decide upon. Later still, a further amendment was made, instituting a World Convention of the T. S. outside India once every five years.

In 1905, after full consideration of all details by the General Council, the Society was registered under Indian law as an Incorporated Body. One clause in the registration is noteworthy. It declares that, should the Society ever cease to exist, the property of the Society is not to be distributed among the component Sections or individual members, but is to be handed over, under a decree of the Indian courts, to whatever Society in existence comes nearest to the T.S. in carrying out the purposes for which the Society is founded. As the Society is registered as a religious and charitable institution, it pays no tax on its income.