

"THE COMING CHRIST."

"ALCYONE'S" FATHER V. ANNIE BESANT.

THEOSOPHICAL PRESIDENT DIRECTED BY COURT TO DELIVER UP THE YOUTHFUL GOD-HEAD.

Leadbeater and the Lads—A Criminal Charge Abandoned—Immorality Difficult to Believe—What "The Hindu" Says—Mrs. Besant's Various Transformations of Opinions—Defections from the Theosophical Society—Germans and French Ignore the Order of the Star in the East.

Some months ago "Truth" published a preliminary report of legal proceedings instituted by one G. Narayanah, father of "Alcyone," the Theosophist's prospective prophet, against Mrs. Annie Besant, President of the Theosophical Society, for the recovery from her custody of his two sons, Krishnamurti ("Alcyone") and Nityananda.

The charge made in the original plaint was a criminal offence, and the act charged took place in the latter part of March, 1910, but in the amended plaint that charge was abandoned. If the offence had really been committed

in view of the world-wide interest centered in the case, it is strange that a précis of his Lordship's judgment has not been published in New Zealand ere this. However, by the courtesy of that well-known hard-headed cynic "Waikanae," of Taranaki, "Truth" has been permitted to peruse Mr. Justice Bakewell's judgment as published in "The Hindu," April 15.

His Lordship, in delivering the judgment, first recited the facts of the case beginning with the circumstances under which the plaintiff entered the service of the defendant at the Adyar Headquarters in December, 1898, and to the circumstances of the boys being stopped from attending the school at Mysapore and being taught at Adyar by Messrs. Leadbeater, Clark, S. V. Subramaniam and also the plaintiff. When the plaintiff came to the boys were aged 14 and 11 respectively. The defendant told the plaintiff that

SOMETHING GREAT AND GOOD was going to happen to Krishnamurti and that the plaintiff was not to allow any obstacles to be in the way of his progress. In January, 1910, she came to Adyar and in the same month some ceremony, called the Initiation, with respect to Krishnamurti was discussed and plaintiff consented to it as a member of the Esoteric section, and was thereupon admitted as a member of the Initiation attached by the defendant and Mr. Leadbeater to the ceremony. In October, 1910, the defendant returned to Adyar and proposed to give the boys an English education. No doubt, the plaintiff was well aware of the motive operating in the defendant's mind and she accordingly refused to consent to the arrangement.

On March 6, 1910, plaintiff signed a letter making the defendant guardian of the boys. The defendant at that time had an occult Society and was considered a considerable discussion as to the terms of the agreement. The plaintiff took the advice of an eminent lawyer and an ex-Judge of this High Court. The legal effect of the document was explained to the plaintiff, who, after consulting a large number of dependants living in Adyar,

of the agreement. The plaintiff's position as an officer of the Adyar Society and as a member of the Inner Circle was of importance to her. Plaintiff also wished to give his sons an English education. These considerations strongly influenced him and were sufficient to explain his faith in defendant to make her the guardian of his sons. His Lordship thought that the defendant was not a person of ordinary intelligence and that she exercised great influence over the plaintiff, but, considering the discussion and deliberation which took place over the guardianship agreement, and the drafts prepared and revised, he found that there was no undue influence exercised on plaintiff's mind, and therefore, found the fifth issue against the plaintiff.

On April 14, 1910, shortly after the agreement, plaintiff alleged that a certain incident described in the plaint book was of importance to her. Plaintiff also wished to give his sons an English education. These considerations strongly influenced him and were sufficient to explain his faith in defendant to make her the guardian of his sons. His Lordship thought that the defendant was not a person of ordinary intelligence and that she exercised great influence over the plaintiff, but, considering the discussion and deliberation which took place over the guardianship agreement, and the drafts prepared and revised, he found that there was no undue influence exercised on plaintiff's mind, and therefore, found the fifth issue against the plaintiff.

case has indeed presented many remarkable features, among which are the personality of Mrs. Besant, also claim to be the spiritual head of large numbers of people belonging to various races and creeds in different parts of the world, and the nature of the contentions set up in the case on behalf of the rival claimants to the guardianship of the boys.

HER ASSOCIATION WITH MR. LEADBEATER since his ostracism from it in the time of Colonel Olcott, led to numerous conversions by leading members of the Society, and to schisms within it which have resulted in separate organizations being formed for the propagation of the doctrines of Theosophy.

IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE that he would not have complained to the defendant at once, and he would have continued to live with his sons at Adyar. The plaintiff admitted that he only repudiated his son and asked them not to go to Mr. Leadbeater. His Lordship then read the evidence of Lakshman, and said that the plaintiff regarded the incident of the boys' baptism as only a violation of the caste rules and thought no more about it.

THE PRESIDENT NEEDED MR. LEADBEATER for her occult investigations, and that the collaboration appeared necessary to her prestige. To those who have followed her words and acts from that time onwards, it is clearly manifest that Mrs. Besant had fallen under the formidable suggestive power of her dangerous collaborator, and could only see, think, and act under his absolute

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THE FULLER DIVORCE. John, Junior, Gets His Decree Nisi.

And "Truth" Gets the "Straight Griffin." City Councillor's Case In Camera—Ridiculous Suppression of Report—Chapman Sets Himself above Privy Council—House of Lords v. Democratic Dominion—"Truth's" Protest.

No domestic case in New Zealand, during the last thirty years, has aroused more interest in the public mind than the petition of John Fuller, junior, for divorce from his wife Gertrude Alice Fuller, on the grounds of adultery with one Henry Percy Harris, described as an advertising agent in Sydney. This "cause celebre" occupied the attention of the Supreme Court at Wellington, under the guidance of Mr. Justice Chapman, for upwards of five weeks during last week.

Public curiosity was all the more whetted by the position of the parties. Young Johnny was the well-known entrepreneur, popular with Fuller patrons from one end of the Dominion to the other. He was the son of a public figure, his Wellington public life being graciously pleased to elect him to their City Council twice running.

Gertrude Fuller. to the discretion of a single Judge, who may have fads peculiar to himself, to muzzle the people's messengers—the pressmen—and prevent a knowledge of abuses and festering sores that exist in the body-social, from reaching the ears of the people.

NOT A LITTLE AMUSEMENT. Counsel for both sides used their challenge privilege to the utmost, and succeeded in exhausting the panel. The first man, whose name came out of the box, Arthur Mason, passed without comment. Then four were challenged in turn.

LOCK THE DOORS! This sounded like Parliament, when the division bell had done ringing. The court orderly was entrusted to choose a likely looking man from those standing at the rear.

THE ONE WITH THE GREEN TIE ON. Green Tie stepped forward, but he proved to be a new arrival from Sydney, and was exempt. Cooper, reluctantly chewing his moustache, said, "Call that young man sitting at the end of the bench, the Hon. Mr. Justice W. G. Fisher."

THE JURY DUTY installed, his Honor intimated that he would take the case in camera, and so completely disappeared that neither the "evidence" nor any part of it should be published. This contingency had been discussed among legal and press men in the earlier morning, before the Court opened.

able manner the questions of sex relationship, we could have still further disagreed with their decision. But such is the law in this Democratic Dominion that evidence in a case of great public moment is suppressed by the Judge "in the interest of public morality," while prurient publications flaunt their flaming covers on every "RESPECTABLE" "GO-TO-SUNDAY" bookseller's counter!

There is another reason such cases should not be taken in camera. "Truth" takes it that the Divorce Court is something more than a Court of Divorce. It is a Court of Justice.

WILLY WICKED WORSERS and whittled scoundrels, men who have masqueraded before high heaven as saintly servants of the Lord, men posing as faithful husbands of too trusting wives have been shown to be living lives of flagrant adultery.

A severe cross-examination at the hands of Mr. Wilford did not shift him one line. Question after question followed each other in quick succession, the wily Wilford following the same line of procedure as he did when he was giving Young John his grilling.

IN OBSERVANCE of His Honor's order, "Truth" has had to deal very boldly and succinctly with this case. It has, however, done its duty in entering a protest against the cameratic tendencies of public institutions.

MILITARY MADNESS. Apeling Imperial Aims. Australasia, in her futile and freely foolish interludes, carries on the same old game of arms and armaments as is being played out and never ceasingly in Europe just now.

NOT BEHAVING PROPERLY in Sydney. From inquiries made he had convinced himself that the misbehavior had commenced almost from the time of her arrival in the Garden City, and that the man mostly concerned was the co-respondent Harris.

IT would seem that the current jelly commerce is as great a mystery as the German war. A consignment recently landed was found to consist of apple juice, maple syrup, phosphoric acid, and coloring matter. What the coloring matter was was not revealed.



"ALCYONE," Head of the Order of the Star in the East. The Subject of Considerable Litigation.



GERTRUDE FULLER.



JOHN FULLER, JUNIOR.