

RETIREMENT OF MADAME BLAVATSKY.

The following circular issued to the Branches of the Theosophical Society by the President Founder, is now, by permission made public :—

HEAD-QUARTERS, ADYAR,
14th April 1885.

The President Founder by order of the General Council, announces the retirement from the office of Corresponding Secretary of Madame H. P. Blavatsky, co-founder of this Society. Following are the texts of her letter of resignation and of the Resolution of Council thereupon :—

[COPY.]

ADYAR, March 21st, 1885.

To the General Council of the Theosophical Society.

GENTLEMEN,

The resignation of office, which I handed in on September the 27th 1884, and which I withdrew at the urgent request and solicitation of Society friends, I must now unconditionally renew. My present illness is pronounced by my medical attendants mortal; I am not promised even one certain year of life. Under these circumstances it would be an irony to profess to perform the duty of Corresponding Secretary; and I must insist upon your allowing me to retire. I wish to devote my remaining few days to other thoughts, and to be free to seek changes of climate should such be thoughtlikely to do me good.

I leave with you, one and all, and to every one of my friends and sympathizers, my loving farewell. Should this be my last word, I would implore you all, as you have regard for the welfare of mankind and your own Karma, to be true to the Society and not to permit it to be overthrown by the enemy.

Fraternally and ever yours—in life or death.

(Signed) H. P. BLAVATSKY.

At about this time Madame Blavatsky was having severe attacks of palpitation of the heart, and all at Headquarters were kept in a state of alarm, as the physicians had expressed the opinion that under any sudden excitement death might be instantaneous.

Following is the Certificate of her Medical attendant :—

[COPY.]

I hereby certify that Madame Blavatsky is quite unfit for the constant excitement and worry to which she is exposed in Madras. The condition of her heart renders perfect quiet and a suitable climate essential. I therefore recommend that she should at once proceed to Europe, and remain in a temperate climate—in some quiet spot.

(Signed) MARY SCHARLIER,
M. B. and B. S., LONDON.

Madame Blavatsky accordingly left in company with three friends—one European lady, one European gentleman, and one Hindu gentleman—who had volunteered to take charge of her. It was not decided where she should go upon reaching Europe, but discretion was left to her escort to choose some quiet spot answering to Dr. Scharlieb's description. Should her health be sufficiently re-established, she will finish the "Secret Doctrine," which she means to make her greatest life-work. To obey strictly the general injunctions of her medical adviser, as confirmed by her personally, I shall not forward to her any letters or publications calculated to interfere with the mental repose which is now so necessary for her recovery, and I trust that all her friends will show her a like kindness.

The local members of the General Council, meeting at Head-quarters upon my invitation as an Executive Committee, on the 12th instant, adopted unanimously the following

RESOLUTION.

"Resolved that Madame Blavatsky's resignation be accepted, and that the President be requested in the name of the Council to inform her of the great regret with which they have learnt that she is compelled, on account of her extreme ill-health, to relinquish her duties as Corresponding Secretary of the Theosophical Society. The Council further record their high sense of the valuable services she has rendered to the cause of Science and Philosophy.

(Signed.) R. RAGGONATH ROW,
Chairman.

To mark our respect for Madame Blavatsky's exceptional abilities the vacancy caused by her retirement will not be filled and the office of Corresponding Secretary is hereby abolished. Official correspondence upon philosophical and scientific subjects will, however, be conducted as heretofore by other members of the Executive Staff, and enquiries may be addressed to the Recording Secretary, at Adyar.

By the Executive Committee of the General Council,

H. S. OLCOTT,

President of the Theosophical Society.

FORMATION OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

CIRCULAR.

ADYAR, April 7th 1885.

Sir and Brother,—With a view to improving the administration of the Theosophical Society, and relieving the President of a portion of the responsibility which now devolves upon him, I have determined to form, as an experimental measure and subject to ratification by the next Convention, an Executive Committee, of which I invite you to become a member.

My wish is to have this Committee assume in connection with myself the entire management of the Society's affairs, during the recess. Each member and myself to have an equal vote; the President to have a casting vote in case of a tie; all questions to be decided by the majority present; the Secretary of the Society to act as Secretary to the Committee, the entire proceedings to be kept strictly confidential, save with the consent of the majority present; and the Committee to meet at least once a week for business.

The design being merely to form a convenient working Committee of Councillors most accessible from the Head-Quarters, I propose that a circular be sent to each and every member of the General Council notifying him of the appointment of this Executive Committee, and inviting him to attend the sessions when in Madras; and last times to communicate through any one of his colleagues among your number any matter he may think it advisable to have acted upon. Thus practically, the entire General Council would have a share in the management of the Society throughout the year.

It is to be understood, of course, that the present measure is adopted tentatively, and that the right is reserved of rescinding this Special Rule in case difficulties should arise—as in the late Board of Control—of so serious a nature as to prove its inexpediency.

Should this proposal meet with your approval, you will oblige me by signifying your acceptance in writing, and by attending the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the General Council at the Head-Quarters, on Sunday next the 12th instant, at 2-30. P. M. sharp.

Fraternally yours,

H. S. OLCOTT,

President, Theosophical Society.

The Committee met at the time and place designated, organized, and proceeded to business. The above Circular, being copied into the Council Minute Book, and the following paragraph added, was signed as below.