

THEOSOPHISTS IN COUNCIL.

THE RESIGNATION OF COL. OLCOTT AS PRESIDENT RECEIVED.

CHICAGO, April 24.—The annual convention of delegates from the various theosophical societies of the United States opened at the Palmer House to-day.

This convention, it is claimed by Theosophists, is the most important to the American section since its foundation, because it is the first since the death of Mme. Blavatsky, the society's founder and leader, and because it was known that at this meeting would be received the resignation of Col. Henry S. Olcott, now in India, who was one of the founders, and was the chosen President for life. Almost half the morning session, after it had been called to order by William Q. Judge of New-York, Vice President and General Secretary, and a permanent Chairman had been chosen in the person of Judge R. McBride of the Supreme Court of Indiana, was devoted to the memory of the strange authoress of "The Secret Doctrine" and "Isis Unveiled."

Before proceeding with the transaction of business the convention adopted a resolution expressing deep regret to the departed leader, Helen Blavatsky, for service rendered by her to the cause of human brotherhood, and pledging continued loyalty to the cause. In view of the fact that the President of the entire society, Col. Henry S. Olcott, made a division of the ashes of the late Mme. Blavatsky in London last July in the presence of Annie Besant and Mr. Judge, giving a third each to the Indian, European, and American sections, it was resolved to indorse the establishment of permanent headquarters in New-York where the portion of the ashes given to America should be kept in a suitable receptacle. It was also resolved to give financial aid to a Blavatsky memorial, which is to take the form of a publication looking to ultimate union between the Orient and the Occident.

In addition to a cable message received from Annie Besant in London which read, "Cordial greetings from Europe," that much-talked-of woman sent a long letter from the Blavatsky lodge of which she is President. This letter and one from the European section of the Theosophical Society was read by G. S. Meade, the General Secretary of that section, and up to the time of her death private secretary to Mme. Blavatsky. In both these it was firmly denied that the death of the founder caused any sign of a collapse on the part of the society.

The resignation of Col. Olcott was dated at Adyar, Madras, Jan. 21, 1891, yet the American convention was the first to act upon it. It did so by adopting resolutions announcing that the office of "President-founder" should remain forever unique, and unanimously declaring its choice as successor to the mere Presidency to be William Q. Judge, to hold office for life. A further resolution was adopted asking Col. Olcott to revoke his resignation and remain President with a minimum of work. If he persists in his determination, the resolution provides that Col. Olcott shall be given a life residence at Adyar, India, and that, Mr. Judge assuming the Presidency, Bertram Keightley, an ardent theosophist, who is now in India but has visited Chicago on several occasions, shall be made Vice President. Until these matters are finally settled, Mr. Judge was re-elected to the office of General Secretary.

Mr. Judge's report for the year was exhaustive. He had much to say of Mme. Blavatsky's life and death, and of the study of the ancient Hindus. The afternoon and evening sessions were devoted to the reading and discussion of papers. Among them was one by Dr. A. Keightley of California on "Schools of Metaphysical Healing," another by Dr. J. D. Buck of Cincinnati on "Materialism and Spiritualism versus Occultism"; G. R. S. Meade sent a paper on "Reincarnation," and Mr. Judge closed with an address on "Cyclic Laws."