

VISITORS FROM MANY LANDS

EAST INDIAN DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS OF RELIGIONS.

Several Theosophists Arrive on the Paris-High Caste Brahmins and Prof. Minas Tcheraz of Armenia on Their Way to Chicago—Mrs. Annie Besant Also with the Party—A Lecture by Her on the Steamer Led to Some Excitement—Return of John Sleeper Clarke.

An unusually large number of well-known persons were passengers on the American Line steamship Paris, which reached this port yesterday from Southampton.

Theosophy was represented by a quartet, of which Mrs. Annie Besant was the most familiar to Americans. The lady of the astral plane walked down the gangplank accompanied by a woman who looked as if she had just stepped from the front-piece of an old-time novel. Her hair was confined by a net, and was dressed in a style affected during the "teacup times of hoop and hood." That was Mrs. F. H. Müller, a convert to Theosophy. From her native Chile she went to London, where recently she has been attracting attention as a woman's-rights advocate and editress of the *Woman's Herald*.

Behind the pair came some Indian disciples of Mme. Blavatsky, who will attend the Theosophical Convention at the World's Fair. They were Prof. Ganendra, Nath Chakravarti of Al-



Mrs. Annie Besant.

lahabad, D. Dharmapala, who will represent the Southern Buddhist Church; B. B. Nagarkar of Bombay, who in his own country expounds the doctrines of the Brahmo-Somaj; Virchand A. Gauthi of Bombay, a priest of the Jain community. On the Paris was also P. C. Mozoomdar of Calcutta, a member of the Brahmo-Somaj.

Prof. Chakravarti is a high-caste Brahmin and ranks high as a Sanscrit scholar. He is one of the few that have ever visited this country. A high-caste Brahmin cannot leave his country and cross the seas without sacrificing his rank, but when Col. Olcott issued a call for East Indian Theosophists to attend the Congress of Religions, these two disciples from the Orient said they would come. The party was met on the pier by William Q. Judge, President of the local Theosophical Society. They expect to leave for Chicago on Sept. 11, and return to Europe by the Paris on Sept. 27. While here the East Indians will be the guests of Mrs. Patterson, at 487 Clason Avenue, Brooklyn. Mrs. Besant and Mrs. Miller will go to Bayside, L. I.

The entire party of East Indians went to the Brunswick-Hotel last evening for dinner. They were the guests of William Pipe, Secretary of the Rev. Dr. De Barras, President of the coming convention.

Dharmapala and Virchand A. Gauthi are both vegetarians—an asceticism imposed upon them by their religions—and on the passage over both were nearly starved. For their dinner last evening the strangers from India feasted upon rice, peas, tomatoes, and watermelon.

One of the most interesting of the visitors is Virchand A. Gauthi. He is a young man with a heavy black mustache and the true Indian hue of skin. He wore a London-made suit of ordinary clothes and a dickey and white tie.

To a reporter for THE NEW-YORK TIMES he explained that the Jain community to which he belongs is the oldest in the world. He said that he had great difficulty in getting away from Bombay.

"It's the first time a priest of your sect has ever left his country, is it not?" asked Mr. Pipe. "Oh, no," replied the teacher.

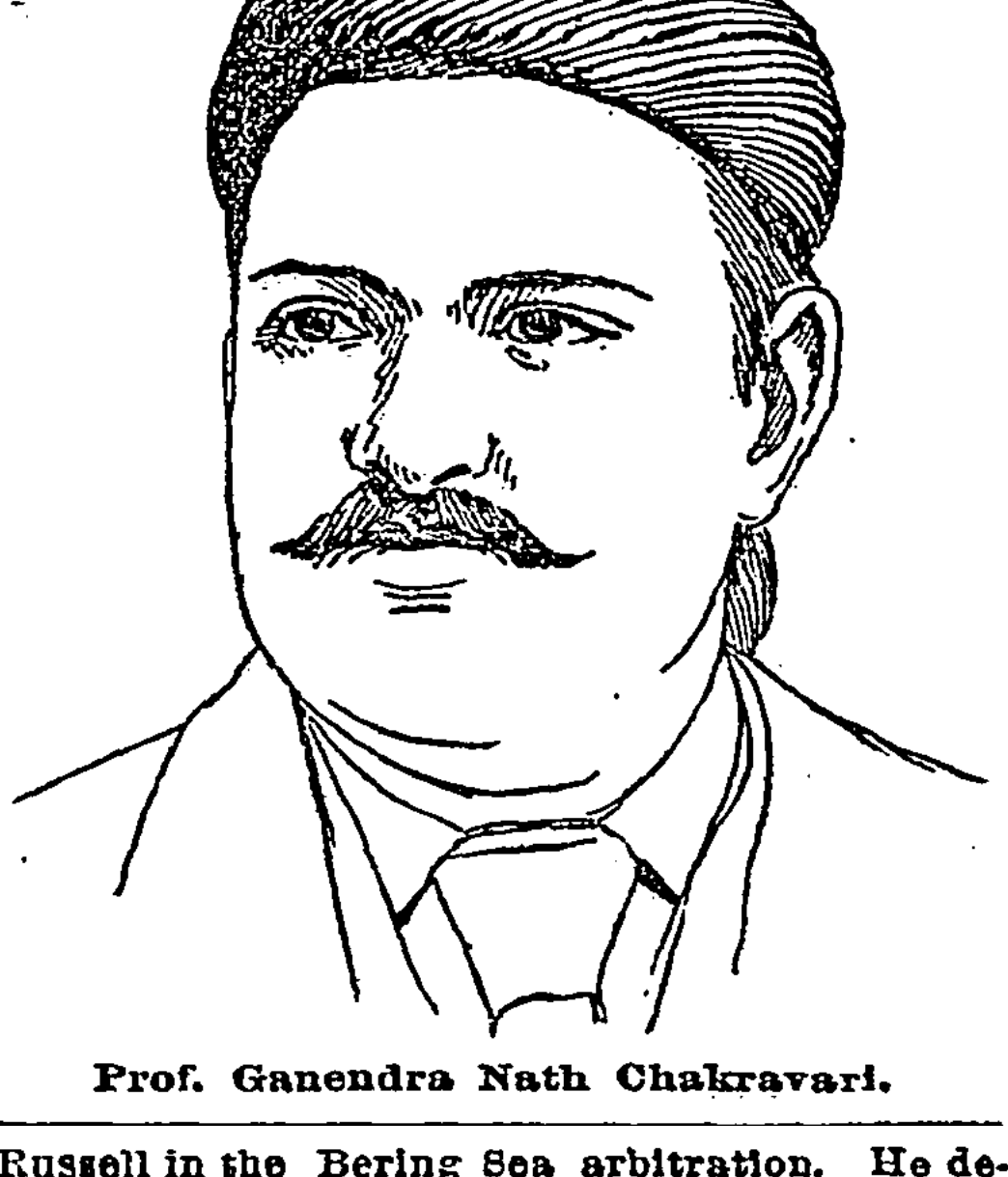
"Why, when did ever that happen before?" asked Mr. Pipe. "About 2,000 years ago," replied Gauthi in a matter-of-fact tone. "No one has made a pilgrimage since then."

Nagarkar, the representative of the Brahmo-Somaj, a tall and intellectual Indian, wore his gray hair in a sort of pompadour fashion. He explained that his branch of religion was the most liberal in India.

"It includes all other faiths," he said, "and respects and reverences all other religions." Nagarkar brought with him from India the ashes of Dr. Amandabal Joshi, the first Indian woman to come to America and study medicine. The ashes are to be reincarnated at Chicago with native religious ceremonies.

Fellow-voyagers of the Theosophists say that the trip was enlivened by an incident which took place in the saloon on Wednesday evening. Mrs. Besant, who is nothing if not oratorical, delivered a lecture that evening on her favorite theme. At its conclusion the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, pastor of Plymouth Church, who was one of the audience, rose to suggest that a vote of thanks be offered to the lecturer for the entertainment she had afforded. Dr. Brandreth rose to object. He saw no reason why any one should advocate theosophy. Before he had an opportunity to read one of his tracts or extol the merits of a certain brand of pills, the Rev. Dr. Barnardo of London, an orthodox divine, assailed the lecturer. When the storm she had brought about had subsided, Mrs. Besant arose and quietly replied to the worthy doctors.

The Right Hon. Sir Richard Webster, Q. C., M. P., was a passenger for the Paris. He is accompanied by his son, Arthur Webster, and his two daughters, the Misses Alice and Dora. Sir Richard was associated with Sir Charles



Prof. Ganendra Nath Chakravarti.

Russell in the Bering Sea arbitration. He declined to say anything on that subject, and was equally reticent when asked about Dr. Gallacher, the dynamiter, who is periodically reported as having been pardoned by the Queen.

Sir Richard had no hesitation, however, in expressing himself as being opposed to Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule bill. He thinks that it will never pass the House of Lords. Sir Richard is never at pains to conceal his prejudice against the Irish, and by way of reciprocity they allude to him as "Sir Wretched Webster." He expects to remain in this country six weeks. His mission here is to act as President of the British Commission at the World's Fair.

A tall, dark-skinned man, who wore a white beaver and an expression which indicated that he was dissatisfied with the way the world was being conducted, was discovered to be Admiral Mauritiz, President of the Brazilian World's Fair Commission. A reporter for THE NEW-YORK TIMES sought to discover if this was his first visit to America. The official looked much surprised and said:

"Why, no; I was here as a delegate to the International Mining Congress in 1889. You ought to have known that."

The reporter retired in confusion. Sylvia Gerrish and Della Fox were among those who returned by the Paris. Miss Gerrish was impetuously welcomed by Miss Isabella Urquhart, with whom she was formerly associated at the Casino. Both

Miss Gerrish and Miss Fox said they had enjoyed themselves immensely while abroad. Miss Fox said she had received several offers from London managers, but could not accept them owing to contracts already made. Miss Gerrish said she had formed no plans as yet. She had two offers, to appear in comic opera, she said; one from an American and one from a London manager. She thinks that she could be happy with either, but is unable to decide between the two.

Henry E. Dixey was also on board. He was enthusiastic about his tour through Germany. He expects to open a new theatre, with new songs and new scenes, in St. Joseph, Mo., on Sept. 11. H. C. Duval, Mr. Depaw's private secretary, said he had visited some staid German towns, and then, by way of contrast, had stopped over in London to listen to debates on the Irish Home Rule bill.

Andrew Carnegie did not loiter on the pier a moment, but was driven away in a carriage to his Fifty-first Street house. He was accompanied by his family and Henry Phipps, his business partner.

Dr. Lyman Abbott said he had spent his two months' vacation in England and Scotland. Ernest Abbott, his son, was his traveling companion. The doctor expects to attend the congress of religions in Chicago, after which he will return to Plymouth Church.

Among other arrivals by the Paris were Sir Ambrose Shea, Governor of the Bahamas, and Lady Shea; Judge D. P. Ingraham, who was in a hurry to reach the Supreme Court Chambers to relieve his colleague, Justice Van Brunt; Fire Commissioner H. W. Gray, who went to Germany to try the water cure; Courtenay Thorpe, arrayed in an attire of the sort which disturbs the peace; Imre Kiralfy, Mrs. W. J. Le Moynes, the elocutionist, whose husband is now playing at the Lyceum; Gardner Wetherbee, Miss Grace D. Wetherbee, and Miss Kenyon, George T. Quincy, Hubbard T. Smith, who has not yet been forgiven for setting Eugene Field's "Listen to My Tale of Woe" to music; the Baron d'Anethan, Belgian Ambassador to Japan, and the Baroness d'Anethan; P. J. Dacheille, the Count and Countess de Felissent, Count Rde. Gromberghe, and Mr. and Mrs. Reginald de Koven.

Prof. Minas Tcheraz, delegate of the Church of Armenia to the International Congress of Religions, arrived yesterday by the steamer Umbria. In personal appearance he looks more like a German Professor than an Oriental. The Sultan of Turkey has often expressed a great desire to bowstring him.

In conversation last evening Prof. Tcheraz said he would at the congress give a full account of the Armenian Church from its foundation by the Apostle Thaddeus, A. D. 34, when King Abzarus, who had written to Christ, was converted, and the Armenian people with him. The Apostles Bartholomew and Thomas also went to Armenia and helped to convert the inhabitants.

After the death of King Abzarus the Armenians generally relapsed into Zoroasterism, and the Christians were persecuted until St. Gregory the Illuminator, in A. D. 302, converted King Tiridates, and with him the bulk of the population. Some 4,000,000 people are said to have been baptized in the River Euphrates in one day. St. Gregory founded the seat of the Armenian Church at Etchmiatzin, now within Russian territory.

In A. D. 451 the Armenian Church separated from the Greek Church after the Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon, because no Armenian delegates had been sent there. The rites of this Church are similar to those of the Greek Orthodox Church. The head of the Armenian Church is the Patriarch of Etchmiatzin.

The Armenians in Turkey have been persecuted by the Mohamedans ever since the Crusaders gave up the fight against Islam in the East, and returned to Europe, leaving the Christians of Asia to their fate.

Among the arrivals on the steamer Umbria was the well-known American comedian John Sleeper Clarke. Although well on in the middle age Mr. Clarke is wonderfully young-looking and well preserved. He retired from active stage life about five years ago. He is the owner of the Strand Theatre, London, and the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, besides owning much valuable real estate in the latter city. When seen at the Fifth Avenue Hotel last night by a reporter for THE NEW-YORK TIMES, he said:

"I was much affected by the death of my brother-in-law, Edwin Booth. We were very much attached to each other, but I was unable to come over from London to see him during his last illness. Theatrical affairs seem to be flourishing in London just as much as they ever did. I have leased my London theatre to Willie Edouin, who is doing very well in comedy. In fact, he is now one of the most popular of the comedians in the English metropolis.

"My boys are both on the stage—Creston, who is here, having left the Daly company in London, and Wilfred, who is traveling with his own comedy company in the Southern States. We had a splendid trip. I am feeling as young as ever, and am anticipating having a good time with my old friends."

Mr. Clarke is accompanied by his unmarried daughter and Miss Hudspeth, a promising young English actress. The visit is purely for pleasure. Mr. Clarke and his party will return to London in about a month.