

## CHICAGO REJECTS THE MAHATMA.

The occult influence of the Theosophical Society's new Mahatma does not appear to have been exerted effectively in Chicago, where there is a large and powerful branch of the organization. We suspect that his attempt to thwart the late Mr. JUDGE'S purely American purposes by depriving Chicago of the annual meeting and making a London lawyer Mr. JUDGE'S successor in the office of President has excited some hostility in the windy city.

The Chicago society or branch held a meeting last Friday night, and the Secretary made some remarks which we find reported as follows in The Chicago Tribune:

"It was the desire and hope of our one great teacher, Mme. BLAVATSKY, in whose memory this meeting is held, and who never claimed to be a Mahatma, that this society should pass into the next century intact and undivided. But with her prophetic vision she foresaw the disaster which has come. In 1895 some of the members gave way to personal ambition and headed the seceding faction, whose love of notoriety has brought what I feel to be a disgrace upon the name of Theosophy.

"They have given themselves up to all sorts of psychic phenomena, which only bring ridicule from those outside our society and strong disapproval from rational-minded Theosophists.

"The evidence in regard to their Mahatma only points to the fact that he must be a trance medium. He was the pupil of the late WILLIAM Q. JUDGE, and, it is claimed, possesses his occult power. Now, W. Q. JUDGE himself was no Mahatma, and therefore his pupil cannot be one.

"The so-called Mahatma is a fraud, and the marriage [recently celebrated in this city with Theosophic rites] a sensationalism to be aired by the newspapers and bring uncalled-for ridicule upon our belief. The partisans of that faction tacitly admit this fraud, and further show the weakness of their position by keeping the identity of the personage who performed the marriage unknown, because they declare that if he were known he could not withstand the thought currents directed toward him.

"Verily this is a Mahatma of immeasurably lower type than those described as perfected souls who, having passed through all human experience and having gained mastery over the forces of nature, are beyond the influence which controls our physical and mental planes."

This is a revolt of serious proportions, and the parent society in this city cannot afford to overlook it. We presume that the Chicago branch will be subjected to discipline, but if it has thus far resisted successfully the tremendous occult influence of the new Mahatma and does not hesitate now to call him "a fraud," is it probable that it will submit and confess its grievous fault?

We expected that the Chicago Theosophists would resent the new supremacy of New-York in the councils of the organization, and we understand that the society in that city has had in training for some months a very promising Mahatma of its own, a member of the Chicago Board of Trade, favorably known as a "plunger" in that exciting marketplace, who has become so hardened by his experience in the "wheat pit" that he is able to withstand thought-waves innumerable and of the greatest intensity.