

THE WESTERN WEEKLY

PIONEER PUBLICATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

ESTABLISHED 1850. TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NO. 23.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1891.

VOL. XLII.

GOD OMNIPRESENT.

My God is omnipresent, best
Life and love and truth and rest.
I am the Father's perfect child.
Pure and good and undefiled,
My heaven is the present hour,
For now I use Love's mighty power.
This truth attunes life's harp, and thus
The harmony reflects in us.
We ask, affirm, then wait, and we
Then know the truth and we are free.
Naught can disturb, God is my peace,
With every breath my joys increase.
I am not sick, God is my health;
I am not poor, God is my wealth;
I am not grieved, God is my joy;
Abundant, full, without alloy.
Since God is all, omniscient, best.
I cannot tire, life is my rest.
No stay and no support I seek;
He is my strength, I am not weak.
I am not blind, the holy light
Of heaven I see—God is my sight.
I need not look beyond the skies
For heaven when it beyond me lies;
And naught, save what is pure and fair
And beautiful, can enter there.

NINA V. HUGHES.

THEOSOPHY AND BLAVATSKY.

The death of Mme. Blavatsky in London on the 8th inst. has brought into notice the existence of a sect or school of thinkers which hitherto had been unknown to the average reader. This lady was the founder of what is now styled modern theosophy. And up to her death she had been its high priestess and prophet. She spent a great portion of her life in Oriental countries, and penetrated into regions unexplored by any European. Even in Thibet she became a member of some of the most exclusive of its systems of worship. She made a special study of Buddhism, and claimed to have found through it, the key to all physical and spiritual marvels.

Mme. Helena P. Blavatsky was a native of Russia. Topographical nomenclature in that country is not the simplest kind of literature, therefore the less of it the better. The name of her native town, however, is Ekaterinosian, in the province of Erivan in the Caucasus. She comes of distinguished parentage. Her grandmother was the Princess Dolgoroukoff. On her father's side her ancestors can be traced back to the days of the crusades. When a young

girl she married Nicapore Blavatsky who was an old man, but vice-governor of Erivan. Either the old man died, or she left him. Then she traveled in Egypt, India and other oriental countries. In her travels she became intimate with members of those secret fraternities of which such marvelous stories have been told. She was initiated in one, the headquarters of which are in Thibet. But she could not get beyond the primary stage of pupil or chela. She tried to get the "adeptship" but could not. After her long sojourn in the Orient she came to England and then to the United States. Some American and English gentlemen took up her doctrines and espoused them, and the result was the establishment of modern theosophy. Her most famous co-worker was Col. Olcott. He wrote several works on theosophy. He is now in India presiding over the Indian branch. Mme. Blavatsky is the author of a book entitled "Isis Unveiled." It is a voluminous production, consisting of two volumes of 750 pages each. It was written in New York, and published about eight years ago. Its object is to show the unity of the esoteric philosophy underlying various ancient religions, and the peculiar value which pure Buddhism has for the students of that philosophy. It is said that much of the contents of this work was dictated to her through occult agency, while quantities of actual manuscript in other handwritings than her own were produced while she slept.

Remarkable accounts have been published of the woman's power over occult forces, acquired by virtue of her initiation in the mysteries of Theosophic Buddhism. In India she was associated with the high caste Brahmin Subbe Row, one of the greatest scholars of modern India. He assisted her in diving into the literary treasures of that country. She came back to England once more and was well received. She started *Lucifer*, a magazine of theosophy, and succeeded in bringing about her some well known persons, and some of literary and scientific prominence. There are now three lodges of this order in London, and there are a dozen in the provinces.

The word theosophy signifies literally "divine wisdom," but it has been employed to designate several systems differing widely from each other. One of the chief sects of theosophy was

known as the Fire-philosophers or Rosicrucians. Its leader was Paracelsus, born in 1493, and died 1591. Robert Fludd became its greatest apostle in England. He died in 1637. These claimed that God acts in the kingdom of grace just as he does in the kingdom of nature. They claimed by a miraculous intuition of the properties of the element of fire to see into all physical and spiritual mysteries.

Another form of theosophy was that expounded by Jacob Bohmen, the shoemaker of Gorlitz. This, however, was only a system of Christian mysticism. Henry Moore adopted it in England, and later on William Law.

The latest form of theosophy concerns itself with a search for divine knowledge. The term divine applying to the divine nature of the abstract principle not to the quality of a personal God. This is the form practised by Madame Blavatsky. It is not a philosophy, because it ignores philosophical methods. It cannot well be called a religion, though its followers are multiplying so fast at present that it may in future take a place in religious history. It differs, however, from both philosophy and theology, even when these have the same object of investigation. Philosophy employs the methods and principles of natural reasoning in seeking to learn the Divine nature and attributes; theology uses these, also, adding to them certain principles derived from revelation. Theosophy, on the other hand, professes to exclude all reasoning processes as imperfect, and to derive its knowledge from direct communication with God himself. This modern theosophy has its origin in Buddhism, and bears the same relation to it, that the Roman religion of today bears to the Paganism of classic Rome. It is apparently allied to spiritualism, and, like it anti-Christiau. Several of the leading London journals have stated that the occult phenomena produced by leading Theosophists are nothing more than conjuring tricks.

Col. Olcott, who has been identified for a long time with Mme. Blavatsky founded a branch of the Theosophical Society in New York in 1875. The objects of the society were threefold: First, to form the nucleus of a universal brotherhood of humanity without distinction of race, creed or color; second, to promote the study of Aryan and other Eastern