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NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

AMERICAN SECTION

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,

AND

FIRST CONVENTION

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AMERICA,

HELD AT

BOSTON, MASS., APRIL 28 and 29, 1895.

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REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY.

MORNING SESSION, APRIL 28th.

THE Delegates assembled at the New England Theosophical Headquarters, 24 Mt. Vernon street, Boston, some time before 10 a. m., the hour fixed for opening. There were also many visiting members. The Hall was crowded. The order of the Executive Committee for holding the Convention at Boston was read by William Q. Judge, General Secretary, who called the meeting to order and asked for nominations for temporary chairman. On motion of Geo. D. Ayers, Dr. A. P. Buchman of Fort Wayne, Ind., was elected temporary chairman and took the chair. He asked that the business be proceeded with rapidly. Two Secretaries to the Convention were elected, Claude Falls Wright and Joseph H. Fussell.

On motion a Committee of three on Credentials was directed to be appointed by the Chair. The Chair appointed A. A. Purman of Fort Wayne, Dr. Allen Griffiths of San Francisco, and Geo. D. Ayers of Boston.

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THE CHAIRMAN: We ought to have the reading of the report of the Committee on Resolutions before we adjourn, so that we can digest it with our dinners.

Mr. Griscom: I will repeat myself to the effect that Dr. J. D. Buck has submitted to the Committee on Resolutions a very important preamble and resolutions, which the Committee desires to report back to this Convention with its unqualified and unanimous approval. As they are very important, I will ask you to listen carefully. They are written badly, and with many corrections, so you will have to pardon me if I read them badly.

Mr. Griscom here read the Resolutions. When he reached that portion of them which resolved the election of William Q. Judge for life, there was tremendous applause, the entire Convention rising to its feet and applauding for a long time.

(Mr. Griscom continued to read the Resolutions. )

WHEREAS the growth of the Theosophical Movement has been phenomenal in America and in its origin, aim, and method of work is unlike any movement of modern times, and

WHEREAS, the different forms of organization through which the body known as " The 'Theosophical Society'" has passed since the year 1878 were solely the result of growth, and not the result of votes, and were thus adopted from time to time to suit the exigencies of the moment and have been merely *de facto* and not *de jure*, and

WHEREAS, on the other hand, the confederated Branches in America were regularly organized in 1886, and

WHEREAS, we have outgrown the present form of organization of the Theosophical Society, and

WHEREAS, the duties pertaining to the general offices of the said Theosophical Society have not been essential to the real work of any Section or to the Movement as a whole, its federal and general officers residing at remote distances from each other and being necessarily unfamiliar with the exact conditions and needs of Sections other than their own, and

WHEREAS, a federation of all the Branches of the world is not essential to the real work of any Section or to the Theosophical Movement as a whole, ani

WHEREAS, conditions contrary to the principle of Universal Brotherhood have arisen within the Theosophical Society which would prove fatal to the continued existence of said Movement; therefore be it

RESOLVED: First, that the American Section consisting of Branches of the Theosophi-

cal Society in America, in convention assembled, hereby assumes and declares its entire autonomy and that it shall be called from and after this date "The Theosophical Society in America."

Second, that the administration of its affairs shall be provided for, defined, and be under a Constitution and By-Laws, which shall in any case provide for the following ;

(a) A Federation of Branches for the purpose of the formation of a nucleus of Universal Brotherhood without any distinctions whatever, this being its principal aim and object; its subsidiary objects being the study of ancient and moder religions, sciences, and philosophies; the declaration of the importance of such study; and the investigation of the unexplained laws of nature and the psychical powers latent in man.

(b) That William Q. Judge shall be President for life, with power to nominate his successor; and a Vice-President, Treasurer, and Executive Committee, elected yearly.

(c) Autonomy for Branches in local affairs.

(d) A yearly Convention with equitable representation.

(e) Territorial Committees for propaganda, without power to legislate.

(f) The declaration that every member has the right to believe or disbelieve in any religious system or philosophy consistent with Universal Brotherhood and declare such belief or disbelief, without affecting his standing as a member of this Society, each being required to show that tolerance for the opinions of others which he expects for his own.

RESOLVED, that until the final adoption of a Constitution and By-Laws the President is empowered to issue charters and diplomas for this Society.

RESOLVED, that the Branches in America shall retain their present charters, the President being directed to endorse them as valid under the Constitution within a period to be defined.

RESOLVED, that the books, records, lists, moneys, funds, and property of every kind belonging to us as the American Section of the Theosophical Society be and hereby are turned over to and declared to belong to the Theosophical Society in America, their custodian to be William Q. Judge; but all members of the present federation not wishing to

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continue their membership under the new name shall on demand be entitled to their *per capita* share of said moneys and funds.

RESOLVED, that until the said Constitution is written and adopted the affairs of the Theosophical Society in America shall be administered under the Constitution of the

American Section of the Theosophical Society, where that does not conflict with the above preamble and resolutions, and wherever such conflict occurs the said Constitution is hereby repealed, but all provisions relative to the Theosophical work and propaganda shall stand valid.

RESOLVED, that the Theosophical Society in America hereby recognizes the long and efficient services rendered to the Theosophical Movement by Col. H. S. Olcott and that to him belongs the unique and honorary title of President-Founder of the Theosophical Society, and that, as in the case of H. P. B. as Corresponding Secretary, he can have no successor in that office.

RESOLVED, that the permanent organization of this Convention remain as, and is hereby declared to be, the permanent organization of the First Annual Convention of the 'Theosophical Society in America.

RESOLVED, that all Branches of the Theosophical Society in America that have not voted for the autonomy of this Society may ratify the action of this Convention within three months from this date and such ratification shall constitute such Branches members of said Society.\*]

MR. GRISCOM: I would like to say that it was proposed to read in support of these Resolutions, before putting to any vote, a historical sketch which has been prepared by some of the Boston members here, and which has been printed in the New England notes; and it was also proposed first to read some extracts of private and public letters from H. P. B. to various members of the Society. But as we are so near to the time of adjournment, and as it is not possible to have the vote on these resolutions put now, I wish to suggest that we postpone the reading of these two papers until the afternoon session, and I move that Dr. Buck's resolutions be adopted by this Convention.

Motion seconded.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is made now and seconded to adopt this report of the Committee on Resolutions. Now, then, remarks are in order from anyone in the Convention on either side, but I suggest, inasmuch as there may be remarks on both sides that may be more or less prolonged, we had better adjourn and take the matter up after dinner.

On motion adjournment was then taken until 3 P. M.

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SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, APRIL 28.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3 o'clock.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen: The Question being called for, delegates representing the Branches please be careful and pay attention. I do not want to make any mistake in your votes as the Secretary calls the list of the Branches.

Secretary Wright then called the list of Branches and Councillors with the following result :

AYE.

*Branches:* Maya 1; Amrita 2; Arjuna 2; Aryan 10; Atma 1; Aurora 2; Blavatsky 4; Blue Mountain 1; Boston 9; Brahmana 1; Bristol 1; Brooklyn 5; Buffalo 4; Cambridge 3; Chicago 6; Cincinnati 7; Columbus 3; Corinthian 1; Dana 3; Dayton 1; Dharma 1; Dhyana 1; Englewood 1; Eureka 2; Fort Wayne 3; Gilroy 1; Golden Gate 5; Hermes Council 1; "H. P. B." 4; Hot Springs 1; Indianapolis 2; Indra 1; Ishwara 1; Lodge 1; Jamestown 2; Kalayana 2; Kansas City 2; Keshava 1; Krishna 2; Kshanti 1; Lake City 1; Los Angeles 2; Lowell 1; Lynn 1; Macon 3; Malden 2; Memphis 1; Meriden 1; Narada 3; Nashville 1; New Orleans 2; Olympia 1; Pittsburgh 3; Pleiades 1; Point Loma 1; Portland 1; Providence 3; Pacific 1; Redding 1; Rox-

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bury 1; St. John 1; St. Helena 1; Salt Lake 3; San Diego 4; Sandusky 1; San Francisco 4; Santa Barbara 1; Santa Cruz 2; Santa Rosa 1; Seattle 3; Shelton Solar 1; Sioux Falls 1; Somerville 1; Sravaka 1; Stockton 2; Syracuse 2; Toledo 4; Toronto 3; 'Triangle 1; Varuna 1; Vedanta 1; Westerly 1; Willamette 1—total 174.

*Councillors:* Beane, Blodgett, Bowman, Cape, Dunbar, Edwards, Hillard, Judge, Kelsey, Knoche, Leonard, Macmillan, Neubauer, O'Rourke, Russell, Thirds—total 16.

NO.

*Branches:* Boise 1; Chicago 1; Ishwara 2; Port Townsend 1; St. Paul 2—total 7.

*Councillors :* La Pierre, Read—total 2.  
Alexander Fullerton as Treasurer, NO.  
William Q. Judge as Secretary, YES.

TOTALS.

Affirmative .... 191

Negative .... 10

At the close of voting Mr. Fullerton said the Constitution gave him, as Treasurer, a vote, and another to the General Secretary.

Mr. JUDGE (*in reply to MR. FULLERTON*): I have never voted at any Convention as Secretary, and will not this year unless you do. If you wish to vote I shall also vote so as to nullify yours.

MR. FULLERTON: I shall vote; we will go on the record.

While waiting for the count of the vote the Auditing Committee reported favorably on the Treasurer's report and was, on motion, approved and discharged.

The vote, as above, was then, at 6 P. M., formally announced by the Chair and the Resolutions declared carried. Long-continued and loud applause greeted the announcement, the greatest enthusiasm prevailing.

A. A. Purman moved that a Committee of Nine on Constitution and By-laws be appointed by the Chair, to report as quickly as possible. This was seconded, put to vote and carried.

Committee A. Purman, C. A. Griscom, Jr., Miss Katharine Hillard, Miss E. S. Bouton, F. I. Blodgett, E. Aug. Neresheimer, Louis F. Wade, W. A. Stevens, Dr. J. Anderson.

On motion the Convention at 6:15 P. M. adjourned until Monday, April 29th, at 10 A. M., to meet at the same place as the first Convention of the Theosophical Society in America.

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