

MR. PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

Theosophical Society

IT IS INDEED A PRIVILEGE FOR MY WIFE AND ME TO BE PRESENT AT THIS, YOUR ANNUAL CONVENTION, WHICH CO-INCIDES WITH THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE JOHANNESBURG LODGE OF YOUR SOCIETY.

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I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A WELCOME TO THOSE WHO HAVE COME FROM OTHER PARTS TO BE PRESENT ^{here} WITH US TODAY. WE ARE ALWAYS PLEASED TO HAVE VISITORS AND DO SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR STAY AND THAT YOU WILL BE STIMULATED BY YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS CONVENTION.

I HAVE BEEN FURNISHED WITH THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY AND OF THE JOHANNESBURG LODGE. THIS HAS PROVED OF GREAT INTEREST TO ME AND I AM SURE IT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO THOSE HERE TODAY.

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY HAD ITS BEGINNINGS IN NEW YORK AND WAS

FOUNDED ON THE 17TH NOVEMBER 1875. IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS THE FOUNDER, COL. H. S. OLCOTT HAD, AS THE CORNERSTONE FOR HIS ADDRESS THE FACT THAT MAN SHOULD TRY TO UNDERSTAND HIMSELF AND HIS POWERS AND LEARN HOW BEST TO BENEFIT HUMANITY. MADAME H. P. BLAVATSKY, A RUSSIAN PRINCESS, WAS ASSOCIATED WITH COLONEL OLCOTT. APPARENTLY SHE WROTE THE EARLY LITERATURE AND HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ^{the} ITS ADMINISTRATION.

SOON AFTER THE FOUNDING OF THE SOCIETY IN NEW YORK THE MOVEMENT SPREAD TO INDIA, WHERE, IN 1883, COL. OLCOTT PURCHASED A PROPERTY NEAR MADRAS WITH THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AN ORIENTAL LIBRARY. I AM INFORMED THAT THIS LIBRARY NOW CONTAINS THE FINEST COLLECTION OF SANSKRIT MANUSCRIPTS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. IT IS INDEED A CHARACTERISTIC OF BRANCHES OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY THAT THEY PROVIDE EXCELLENT

LIBRARIES FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN ORIENTAL STUDIES - YOGA, MYSTICISM, PARAPSYCHOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY AND COMPARATIVE RELIGION. SOME 3,000 BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE JOHANNESBURG LIBRARY.

TURNING TO THE HISTORY OF THE JOHANNESBURG LODGE, THIS WAS CHARTERED ON THE 14TH APRIL 1899 IN WHAT WAS THEN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA. ~~THAT~~ ^{so} ~~IS WHY WE ARE~~ TODAY CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY. THE ORIGINAL LODGE CHARTER IS ONE OF THE FEW IN THE WORLD ON WHICH APPEARS THE SIGNATURE OF THE FOUNDER, COL. OLCOTT.

MANY PROMINENT CITIZENS OF JOHANNESBURG HAVE PLAYED A LEADING PART IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE LODGE, THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE JOHANNESBURG LODGE WAS MR. LOUIS L. PLAYFORD WHO IN 1904 BECAME CHIEF MAGISTRATE. OTHER

PROMINENT PEOPLE WERE, I BELIEVE, MR. HERBERT KITCHEN, WHO WAS A PIONEER ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, AND MR. L. W. RICH, AN ATTORNEY WHO LIVED IN JOHANNESBURG UNTIL 1949.

Ritch - Ivan Mulford Sarchenton

ON THE OCCASION OF THE LODGE'S 50TH BIRTHDAY THE THEN MAYOR MR. S. P. LEE, ADDRESSED THOSE AT THE LUNCHEON, HE HIMSELF BEING A MEMBER OF THE LODGE.

IN PRESENTING THIS BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW, I DO SO TO DEMONSTRATE TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NEWCOMERS TO OUR CITY, THAT THIS MOVEMENT IS ONE OF THE OLDEST CULTURAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETIES IN JOHANNESBURG, THAT MANY PROMINENT CITIZENS HAVE BEEN PROUD OF THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH IT, ~~AND THAT~~, AS MAYOR, I OFFER THE CONGRATULATIONS OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG TO ALL OF YOU PRESENT HERE TODAY WHO ARE MEMBERS ON YOUR LOYALTY TO

YOUR TASKS OF SERVICE AND STUDY.

THE THEME OF THIS YEARS CONVENTION IS "NO MAN IS AN ISLAND".

MY WORK ON THE CITY COUNCIL HAS PRIMARILY BEEN CONCERNED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF NON-EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN THIS CITY. I THINK IT WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH YOUR THEME IF I WERE TO PASS ON TO YOU SOME OF MY THOUGHTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NECESSITY FOR THE WHITE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT WHAT ARE CALLED TRADITIONAL ^{Race} ATTITUDES.

WE HEAR OF WHITE ISLANDS IN BLACK SEAS AND BLACK ISLANDS IN WHITE SEAS AND COLOURS IN BETWEEN AS SEAS AND ISLANDS. I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT WE CANNOT DIVORCE THE INTERESTS OF ONE RACE GROUP FROM THE INTERESTS OF OTHER RACE GROUPS. THERE IS INTERACTION BETWEEN THE WELFARE OF ONE GROUP AND THE WELFARE OF THE OTHER GROUP. I AM GREATLY CONCERNED THAT THE CULTURE AND BELIEFS OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE HAS BEEN UNDERMINED

AND DESTROYED WITHOUT THE SUBSTITUTION OF ADEQUATE MORES AND BELIEFS IN PLACE OF THE OLD.

THE BELIEFS OF THE BANTU: THE CONCEPT OF KINSHIP: THE BELIEF IN ANCESTRAL SPIRITS: THE BELIEF IN SIGNS - IN OMENS GOOD AND BAD: THE BELIEF THAT ONE CAN BE BEWITCHED AND THAT ONE CAN BEWITCH ONE'S ENEMY: THE BELIEF IN THE WITCH DOCTOR'S OCCULT POWERS AND IN HIS MEDICINES - THESE AND MANY OTHER BELIEFS ARE DEEPROOTED AND WILL BE A PART OF BANTU THINKING FOR A LONG TIME TO COME.

WHAT HAVE WE TRIED TO PUT IN THEIR PLACE? OFTEN THE NATIVES' FIRST CONTACTS WITH WHITE CIVILIZATION WERE THE MISSIONARIES. WHAT DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN THEY WERE. TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE THEIR SACRIFICES AND

AND SELF-DEDICATION INFLUENCED BANTU LIFE AND MORALITY TODAY? A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE EDUCATED BANTU RECEIVED THEIR SCHOOLING AT MISSIONS AND CHURCH-AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS LOVEDALE, FORT HARE, KILNERTON, ADAMS COLLEGE AND ROMA. WHILE THE CHURCHES HAVE MANY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS, CHRISTIANITY IS BY MANY REGARDED AS THE WHITE MAN'S RELIGION AND IS THEREFORE SUSPECT. WAS THE BEHAVIOUS OF THE WHITE MAN TOWARDS THEM AND WERE THE LAWS OF THE WHITE SUCH AS TO CREATE A DESIRE TO REPOSE BELIEF IN THE WHITE MAN'S GOD?

THE CHURCHES:

COUNTLESS SEPARATIST CHURCHES - SOME PUT THE NUMBER AT OVER 2,000 HAVE SPRUNG UP THROUGHOUT SOUTH AFRICA. THESE VARY FROM THOSE HAVING BELIEFS AND A FAITH BEARING A CLOSE RESEMBLANCE TO CHRISTIANITY TO THOSE

WHICH ARE ALMOST COMPLETELY PAGAN. IT IS REGRETTABLE TO HAVE TO SAY THAT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS FINDING IT HARD TO PENETRATE TO THE CORE OF THE MASSES; AND, AMONG THE MORE SOPHISTICATED, CHURCH AFFILIATION IS OFTEN FOR PURPOSES OF SOCIAL STATUS RATHER THAN FOR INHERENT BELIEF BACKED BY A STANDARD OF CONDUCT.

I KNOW THAT YOUR SOCIETY IS CONCERNED WITH THE WELFARE OF HUMANITY AND WITH THE UNDERSTANDING AND SOLUTION OF HUMAN PROBLEMS. WHERE IS THERE ^{smaller} ~~IN OTHER~~ COUNTRIES WHICH SO REQUIRES THE EFFORTS OF PERSONS OF GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING, WHERE PEOPLE WILL ACCEPT THAT NO MAN IS AN ISLAND, WHERE PRIVILEGE IS NOT REGARDED AS A RIGHT BUT AS A TRUST WHICH BRINGS GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. I KNOW THAT MEMBERS OF YOUR SOCIETY ARE MINDFUL OF THESE MATTERS, AND IN CONGRATULATING YOU ON YOUR 70 YEARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WELFARE OF OUR CITIZENS, MAY I ^{also} ~~COMMEND~~ TO YOU

FOR THE GREAT EFFORT IN THE DAYS TO COME SO THAT MEN OF GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING CAN FULFIL THEIR TASKS IN THIS LAND OF GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

which we have covered.

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