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CONTENTS.—DECEMBER 1909.

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Original from NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

				PAGE
On the Watch-Tower				291
On the Watch-Tower	H. O. WOLFE-MURBAY.	•		307
Theosophy in Russia.	A LBA			316
Mental Intensity II, Memory				
"I am the Oup: The Wine is That"				
(Poem)	L			330
Chinese Esotericism	C. Spurgeon-Medhurst			331
The Fingers of One Hand				
Lao Tsz and Herakleitos				
Hymn to the Dancing Shiva (Poem) .	ERNHAT WOOD AND			
	S. V. SUBRAHMANYAM		••	360
Communication between different				
Worlds	ANNIE BESANT.			365
The Beginnings of the Sixth Root-Race.	C. W. LEADBEATER			375
In the Twilight	• • • • • • • • •	•		390
Theosophical Worthies				
(Dr. C. W. Sanders)	K . B.			397
Round the Village Tree :				
The Story of Giordano Bruno .	A. B			399
Sanghamitta's Work	M. MUSAUS HIGGINS .			409
Reviews				411
Academical Magazines	Dr. F. Otto Schräder			413
Theosophical Magazines	J. v. M			415
Theosophy in Many Lands				
Supplement				

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The Indians of South Africa.

Helots within the Empire ! How they are Treated. BY H. S. L. POLAK.

Editor. "INDIAN OPINION" South Africa and the Transvaat

Delegate to India.

THIS book is the first extended and authoritative description of the Indian Colonists of South Africa, the treatment accorded to them by their European fellow-colonists, and their many grievances. The first part is devoted to a detailed examination of the disabilities of Indians in Natal, the Transvaal, the Orange River Colony, the Cape Colony, Southern Rhodesia, and the Portuguese Province of Mozambique. Part II. entitled "A Trapedy of Empire," describes the terrible struggle of the last three years in the Transvaal, and contains an appeal to the people of India. To these are added a number of valuable appendices including petitions by the Transvaal Indians' to the Hon. Dadabhai Naoroji and the President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and by the Transvaal Indian Women to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress ; also many extracts from speeches or despatches of responsible British Politicians, Statesmen, and Administrators, relating to various aspects of the South African Indian question ; together with certain information relating to the recruitment of indentared labor for South Africa."

Under the heading "Natal," the questions of immigration, trading, indentured labor, the £3 annual tax, the Lobito Bay scandal, the political and Municipal franchises, Indian education, and a number of minor problems are discussed.

Dealing with the Transvaal the writer shows the growth of anti-Indian legislation from Law 3 of 1885 to the present day, describing the various attempts of the old Boer Government to compel Indians to trade and reside in locations, the prohibition against the holding of fixed property by Indians, their inability to exercise the most elementary civil rights, including the Municipal franchise, the Gold Law and its relation to Indian trading, and many other interesting points.

At the Cape, the immigration and trading laws are described and their hardships discussed.

It is shown how Indians were expelled from the Orange Free State, and how they have never since been re-admitted; how Southern Rhodesia has attempted to follow the Transvaal's example; and how the Portuguese authorities have been influenced by pressure from the same quarter.

The whole story is a dismal and heart-rending one, but it reveals a record of heroism, self-sccrifice, and moderation, that is an example to the whole of modern India, and this small volume should be upon the workindia and office-desk of every public man in this country who is interested in the Indians of South Africa and desires to have a compendious account of the regrievances and their sufferings.

The book setains a portrait of Mr. Gandhi, Price Re. One. To Subscribers of the Indian Review As. 12.

CONTENTS.—JANUARY 1910.

On the Watch-Tower.425Mysterious Tribes.Riphi Bil (H.P.B.).Man and the Mountain: An AnalogyW. H. KIRBYAn Esperanto Vecabulary of Theosophical and Samskrt TermsALBERT P. WARRINGTONCal and Samskrt TermsALBERT P. WARRINGTONA Word of HelpDr. C. W. SANDERSChinese EsotericismC. SPURGEON-MEDHUESTChinese EsotericismJOHAN VAN MANENChinese EsotericismJOHAN VAN MANENLao Tsz and HerakleitosJOHAN VAN MANENStraget of Similar PersonalitiesJOHAN VAN MANENIn the BibleKATE BROWNING, M.A.The Victory of the Spirit (Poem)(Received by automatic writing through S.B.B)The Story of Giordano BrunoA. B.Round the Village Tree: The Story of Giordano BrunoA. B.The Meaning of Theosophy: The Meaning of Theosophy: Theosophical MagazinesA. B.Statific NotesB. P. W.S42Theosophical MagazinesS45ContemporariesS45ContemporariesS45ContemporariesS45ContemporariesS45ContemporariesS45 <th></th> <th></th> <th>PAGE</th>			PAGE
Mysterious TribesRāphā Bāi (H.P.B.).432Man and the Mountain: An AnalogyW. H. KIRBY441An Esperanto Vecabulary of Theosophical and Samskrt TermsALBERT P. WARRINGTON449A Word of HelpDr. C. W. SANDERS455Chinese EsotericismDr. C. W. SANDERS455Chinese EsotericismC. SPURGEON-MEDHUEST457Then Cometh the End (Poem)MARGARET L. LEE467Lao Tsz and HerakleitosJohan VAN MANEN468Two Groups of Similar Personalitiesin the Bible483The Victory of the Spirit (Poem). (Received by automatic writing through S.B.B)486The Beginnings of the Sixth Root-Race.C. W. LEADBEATER487Two ExperiencesH.O. WOLFE-MURRAY499Theosophical Worthies: (G.R. S. Mead)A. B.505Round the Village Tree: The Story of Giordano BrunoA. B.507The Meaning of Theosophy: The Meaning of Theosophy: The Meaning of Theosophy: BeviewsS. S. Soft526Scientific NotesG. E. SUTCLIFFE529ReviewsS. SoftSoft534Our ContemporariesB. P. W.542Theosophy in Many LandsK. Soft550	On the Watch-Tower.		425
Man and the Mountain : An Analogy An Esperanto Vecabulary of Theosophi- cal and Samskrt TermsW. H. KIRBY441An Esperanto Vecabulary of Theosophi- cal and Samskrt TermsALBERT P. WARRINGTON449A Word of HelpDr. C. W. SANDERS455Chinese EsotericismC. SPURGEON-MEDHUEST457Then Cometh the End (Poem)MARGARET L. LEE467Lao Tsz and HerakleitosJOHAN VAN MANEN468Two Groups of Similar Personalities in the BibleKATE BROWNING, M.A.483The Victory of the Spirit (Poem).(Received by automatic writing through S.B.B)486Two ExperiencesH.O. WOLFE-MURRAY499Theosophical Worthies: (G.R.S. Mead) Round the Village Tree: The Story of Giordano BrunoA. B.505Round the Village Tree: The Lord MaitreyaA. B.507The Meaning of Theosophy: The Meaning of Theosophy: The Meaning of Theosophy: BeviewsA. B.526Scientific NotesG.SUTCLIFFE529ReviewsStateS34Our Contemporaries542Theosophical MagazinesB. P. W.542Theosophical MagazinesS45			432
An Esperanto Vecabulary of Theosophical and Samskrt Terms ALBERT P. WARRINGTON 449 A Word of Help Dr. C. W. SANDERS 455 Chinese Esotericism C. SPURGEON-MEDHURST 457 Then Cometh the End (Poem) MARGARET L. LEE 467 Lao Tsz and Herakleitos JOHAN VAN MANEN 468 Two Groups of Similar Personalities in the Bible 483 The Victory of the Spirit (Poem) (Received by automatic writing through S.B.B) 486 Two Experiences C. W. LEADBEATER 487 Two Experiences H.O. WOLFE-MURRAY 499 Theosophical Worthies: (G.R.S. Mead) A. B. 505 Round the Village Tree: 517 The Lord Maitreya 525 Elementary Theosophy: A. B. 525 Elementary Theosophy: A. B. 526 Scientific Notes G. E. SUTCLIFFE 529 Reviews Sato 534 Our Contemporaries B. P. W. 542 Theosophical Magazines Sato 545	Man and the Mountain : An Analogy .	W. H. KIRBY	441
cal and Samskrt TermsALBERT P. WARRINGTON449A Word of HelpDr. C. W. SANDERs455Chinese EsotericismC. SPURGEON-MEDHUEST457Then Cometh the End (Poem)MARGARET L. LEE467Lao Tsz and HerakleitosJOHAN VAN MANEN468Two Groups of Similar Personalitiesin the Bible483The Victory of the Spirit (Poem)(Received by automatic writing through S.B.B)486The Beginnings of the Sixth Root-Race.C. W. LEADEATER487Two ExperiencesH. O. Wolfe-MURRAY499Theosophical Worthies: (G.R.S. Mead)A. B.505Round the Village Tree: The Story of Giordano BrunoA. B.507In the TwilightSize525Elementary Theosophy: The Meaning of TheosophyA. B.526Scientific NotesG. E. SUTCLIFFE529ReviewsB. P. W.534Our ContemporariesB. P. W.542Theosophical MagazinesX.545	An Esperanto Vecabulary of Theosophi-		
A Word of Help Dr. C. W. SANDERS 455 Chinese Esotericism C. SPURGEON-MEDHUEST 457 Then Cometh the End (Poem) MARGARET L. LEE 467 Lao Tsz and Herakleitos JOHAN VAN MANEN 468 Two Groups of Similar Personalities JOHAN VAN MANEN 468 Two Groups of Similar Personalities in the Bible 483 The Victory of the Spirit (Poem) (Received by automatic writing through S.B.B) 486 Two Experiences C. W. LEADBEATER 487 Two Experiences H. O. WOLFE-MURRAY 499 Theosophical Worthies: (G.R.S. Mead) A. B. 505 Round the Village Tree: The Story of Giordano Bruno A. B. 507 In the Twilight Structure 525 525 Elementary Theosophy: G. E. SUTCLIFFE 529 Reviews G. E. SUTCLIFFE 529 Reviews State State 534 Our Contemporaries B. P. W. 542 Theosophical Magazines X. 545	cal and Samskrt Terms	Albert P. WARRINGTON	449
Chinese Esotericism C. SPURGEON-MEDHUEST 457 Then Cometh the End (Poem) MARGARET L. LEE 467 Lao Tsz and Herakleitos JOHAN VAN MANEN 468 Two Groups of Similar Personalities in the Bible 468 The Victory of the Spirit (Poem) (Received by automatic writing through S.B.B) 483 The Beginnings of the Sixth Root-Race. C. W. LEADBEATER 487 Two Experiences H. O. WOLFE-MURRAY 499 Theosophical Worthies: (G.R.S. Mead) A. B. 505 Round the Village Tree: 517 The Lord Maitreya 525 Elementary Theosophy: A. B. 526 Scientific Notes G. E. SUTCLIFFE 529 Reviews S. S34 Our Contemporaries B. P. W. 542 Theosophical Magazines X. 545			455
Lao Tsz and HerakleitosJOHAN VAN MANEN468Two Groups of Similar Personalities in the BibleKATE BROWNING, M.A.483The Victory of the Spirit (Poem). (Received by automatic writing through S.B.B)486The Beginnings of the Sixth Root-Race. Two ExperiencesC. W. LEADBEATER487Two Experiences489Theosophical Worthies: Bound the Village Tree: The Story of Giordano BrunoA. B.505The Lord MaitreyaThe Meaning of Theosophy: The Meaning of TheosophyA. BThe Meaning of Theosophy: The Meaning of TheosophyA. BScientific NotesScientific NotesOur ContemporariesB. P. WStateTheosophical MagazinesThe Meaning of TheosophyThe Meaning of TheosophyStateStateStateStateStateThe Meaning of TheosophyStateTheosophical MagazinesTheosophy in Many LandsStateState <td>Chinese Esotericism</td> <td></td> <td>457</td>	Chinese Esotericism		457
Lao Tsz and HerakleitosJOHAN VAN MANEN468Two Groups of Similar Personalities in the BibleKATE BROWNING, M.A.483The Victory of the Spirit (Poem). (Received by automatic writing through S.B.B)486The Beginnings of the Sixth Root-Race. Two ExperiencesC. W. LEADBEATER487Two Experiences489Theosophical Worthies: Bound the Village Tree: The Story of Giordano BrunoA. B.505The Lord MaitreyaThe Meaning of Theosophy: The Meaning of TheosophyA. BThe Meaning of Theosophy: The Meaning of TheosophyA. BScientific NotesScientific NotesOur ContemporariesB. P. WStateTheosophical MagazinesThe Meaning of TheosophyThe Meaning of TheosophyStateStateStateStateStateThe Meaning of TheosophyStateTheosophical MagazinesTheosophy in Many LandsStateState <td>Then Cometh the End (Poem)</td> <td>MARGARET L. LEE</td> <td>467</td>	Then Cometh the End (Poem)	MARGARET L. LEE	467
in the Bible	Lao Tsz and Herakleitos	JOHAN VAN MANEN	468
in the Bible	Two Groups of Similar Personalities		
The Victory of the Spirit (Poem). (Received by automatic writing through S.B.B)	in the Bible	KATE BROWNING, M.A.	483
through S.B.B)486The Beginnings of the Sixth Root-Race.C. W. LEADBEATER487Two ExperiencesH. O. WOLFE-MURRAY499Theosophical Worthies: (G. R. S. Mead)A. B.505Round the Village Tree:505The Story of Giordano BrunoA. B.507In the Twilight517The Lord Maitreya525Elementary Theosophy:A. B.525Elementary Theosophy:G. E. SUTCLIFFE529ReviewsS.B. P. W.542Theosophical MagazinesX.545Theosophy in Many LandsS.550	The Victory of the Spirit (Poem)(Received by automatic writing	
The Beginnings of the Sixth Root-Race.C. W. LEADBEATER487Two ExperiencesH. O. WOLFE-MURRAY499Theosophical Worthies: (G. R. S. Mead)A. B.505Round the Village Tree:A. B.507The Story of Giordano BrunoA. B.507In the Twilight517The Lord Maitreya525Elementary Theosophy:A. B.525Elementary Theosophy:G. E. SUTCLIFFE529ReviewsSolutionB. P. W.542Theosophical MagazinesX.545Theosophy in Many LandsSolution550	• • •	through S.B.B)	486
Theosophical Worthies: (G. R. S. Mead)A. B.505Round the Village Tree:	The Beginnings of the Sixth Root-Race.	C. W. LEADBEATER	487
Round the Village Tree:The Story of Giordano BrunoA. B.507In the Twilight517The Lord Maitreya525Elementary Theosophy:525The Meaning of Theosophy.A. B.526Scientific NotesG. E. SUTCLIFFE529Reviews534Our ContemporariesB. P. W.542Theosophy in Many Lands550	Two Experiences	H.O. WOLFE-MURRAY	499
The Story of Giordano BrunoA. B.507In the Twilight517The Lord Maitreya525Elementary Theosophy:525The Meaning of Theosophy.A. B.Scientific Notes526Scientific Notes529Reviews529Reviews534Our ContemporariesB. P. W.Theosophical MagazinesX.State545Theosophy in Many Lands550	Theosophical Worthies: (G.R.S.Mead)	A.B	5 05
In the Twilight 517 The Lord Maitreya 525 Elementary Theosophy: 525 The Meaning of Theosophy A. B. 526 Scientific Notes G. E. SUTCLIFFE 529 Reviews B. P. W. 534 Our Contemporaries B. P. W. 542 Theosophy in Many Lands 550	Round the Village Tree :		
In the Twilight 517 The Lord Maitreya 525 Elementary Theosophy: 525 The Meaning of Theosophy A. B. 526 Scientific Notes G. E. SUTCLIFFE 529 Reviews B. P. W. 534 Our Contemporaries B. P. W. 542 Theosophy in Many Lands 550	The Story of Giordano Bruno	A. B	507
The Lord Maitreya 525 Elementary Theosophy: 526 The Meaning of Theosophy A. B. 526 Scientific Notes G. E. SUTCLIFFE 529 Reviews B. P. W. 534 Our Contemporaries B. P. W. 542 Theosophy in Many Lands 550	In the Twilight		517
Elementary Theosophy : The Meaning of Theosophy .A. B	The Lord Maitreya		525
Scientific Notes	Elementary Theosophy :		
Scientific Notes	The Meaning of Theosophy	A. B	526
Reviews 534 Our Contemporaries B. P. W. Theosophical Magazines X. X. 545 Theosophy in Many Lands 550	Scientific Notes	G. E. SUTCLIFFE	529
Our ContemporariesB. P. W.542Theosophical MagazinesX.545Theosophy in Many Lands550	Reviews		534
Theosophical MagazinesX.545Theosophy in Many Lands550	Our Contemporaries	B. P. W	542
Theosophy in Many Lands	Theosophical Magazines	X	545
	Theosophy in Many Lands	· · · · · · · · · · · · ·	550
Supplement			xiii

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					А.
The Way of Initiation, by Rudolf Steiner,	Ph. D.	•••		2	10
The Stanzas of Dzyan (Reprinted from		et Doctr	i ne)	0	12
The Life of John Dee, by Wm. Alexr. Ayte				1	2
Fragments of Thought and Life, by Mabel				1	8
The Wedding Song of Wisdom, by G. R. S.					12
Mysticism, by Mary Pope				Õ	6
The King Predestinate and three other stor	ries. by I	Michael V		Õ	12
Wagner's Tristan and Isolde, by Carl Rein				ŏ	6
A Child's Story of Atlantis, by Wm. Kings				-	12
Parsifal, by Arnold S. Banks	-unu	• • •		ŏ	6
Theosophical Society and its Aims, by H. 8	S Oleott	•••	• • •	ŏ	2
Theosophical Catechism	5. 01000	•••			1
	•••	•••	•••		
In the Fire of the Heart, by R. W. Trine	•••	•••	•••	-	11
Gițamrța Bodhini	•••	•••	•••	0	4
The Awakening of Faith, by T. Suzuki	•••		•••	4	
Karma (in Hindi)		•••		0	
From the Caves and Jungles of Hindustā	n, by H.	P. Blav	atsky	3	12
Meditations, by Alice C. Ames				1	8
A Guide to Theosophy, by Ernest Wood				0	6
Autobiography (new Edition), by Annie Be	esant				12
Buddhist Popular Lectures, by Annie Besa					0
Occult Chemistry, by Annie Besant and C.					12
Letters from a Sufi Teacher, by Baij Nath		2000002		ŏ	15
Hinduism and India, by Govinda Das.	~	•••	•••	ĭ	4
Convention Lectures of 1908, by Miss L. E.	daaa	••••			
Convention Decisions of 1900, by Miss D. E.	uger.	• • •		U	15

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Rei

CONTENTS.-FEBRUARY 1910.

	P.	AGE
On the Watch-Tower.		553
Mysterious Tribes	Rāphā Bāi (H.P.B.).	559
The Successive Life-Periods of the Man		669
The Drama		577
The Symbolism of Wealth	ROBERT GARDNER	589
Life (Poem)	JANET M. BENSON.	594
Cosmic Consciousness and Man	RICHARD CHURCHILL	595
Lao Tsz and Herakleitos	JOHAN VAN MANEN	304
Hints on Meditation	M	513
The Beginnings of the Sixth Root-Race.		32 1
An Unexpected Confirmation		335
In the Twilight		640
Friendship (Poem)	G. L. K 6	646
Theosophical Worthies: (Arvid Knos).	A. B	547
Elementary Theosophy:		
Reincarnation and Its Necessity .	ANNIE BESANT	349
Why Our Past Lives are Forgotten		352
New Year's Wishes of the Adyar	л	
Library		355
Theosophy and Drama		35 7
Reviews		359
Our Contemporaries		363
Academical Magazines		366
Theosophical Magazines		368
Correspondence		572
Theosophy in Many Lands		373
Latest from the President		680
Supplement		xvi

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CONTENTS.-MARCH 1910.

•		PAGE
On the Watch-Tower		681
Mysterious Tribes	Rāphā Bāi (H. P. B.)	689
Transition (Poem)	G. TOHLEY HARRISON	700
The Successive Life-Periods of the Man	Annie Besant	701
Man's Proper Element (Poem)	F. MILTON WILLIS.	708
The New-Art Era	C. REINHEIMER	709
The Place of War in Human Evolution	A. Colquhoun	712
Back-to-Country Communities	MABEL H. LAYNG	720
On Relation of Herakleitos the Dark to		
some Contemporaries and Prede-		
cessors	DR. F. OTTO SCHRÄDER	723
The Lord Maitreya According to the		
Hindū Scriptures	K. Nārāvaņsvāmi Iver	733
Tukarām's Abhangas		738
The Secret of Peace (Poem)		746
The Beginnings of the Sixth Root-Race	C. W. LEADBEATER	747
The Importance of the Realisation of		
Knowledge	Helios	765
In the Twilight		774
Theosophical Worthies:		
(Alexander Fullerton)	A . B	781
Elementary Theosophy:		
The Riddle of Love and Hate	Annie Besant	783
The Sunflower! (Poem)		790
Scientific Notes	G. E. SUTCLIFFE	791
Ascent (Poem)		794
Reviews		795
Academical Magazines	DR. F. OTTO SCHRÄDER.	801
Theosophical Magazines		804
Theosophy in Many Lands		808
Supplement	· · · · · · · · · · · ·	xix

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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