

[From the Philadelphia Press.]

"ISIS UNVEILED," written by Madame H. P. Blavatsky, and published by J. W. Bouton, New York, is one of the most remarkable works, for originality of thought, thoroughness of research, depth of philosophic exposition, and variety and extent of learning, that has appeared for very many years. It purports to be "A Master-Key to the Mysteries of Ancient and Modern Science and Theology." The print, paper, engravings, and binding show the taste and care for which its publisher is distinguished, and the author, besides writing a work of high merit, took great pains to make it a work of reference, also, by supplying one of the best indexes that we have seen for a long time, occupying fifty-two pages.

"Isis Unveiled" is a surprising proof of what a highly cultivated and very learned woman, who has entered the penetralia of philosophy, can do—though up to the present time few of her sex have ever made the attempt. Madame Blavatsky, Asiatic by birth, was brought up among Orientals; is well acquainted with their language, literature, mythology, and legends; has traveled largely in the Old World and the New (her preface was written in New York in September); knows most languages, dead and living; has seen a great deal, and appears to possess the valuable faculty of remembering whatever she saw. Her work distinctively treats on *the science of religion* and what may be designated *the religion of science*. Some of its brightest pages are those on which she records what passed under her own keen observation, such as feats in magic, Spiritualism, magnetism, &c. She goes back into hoar antiquity to show the similarity, if not the actual identity, of modern with ancient faith. We were especially struck with the similarity in the legend of the three Saviours, viz.: Christna, supposed by Brahmanical calculations to have lived 6877 years ago; Gautama Buddha, supposed by European science and Ceylonese calculations to have lived 2540 years ago; and Jesus of Nazareth, who was born 1877 years ago. The striking events in the life of each, placed parallel, are strongly similar, even to the crushing of the serpent's head by all three. Another noticeable point is that in every instance where a fact is stated, authority quoted, or anecdote related, this author mentions its source, and if from manuscript or printed book translates the passage into pure English. Here, too, we have to admire the thorough simplicity and natural grace of Madame Blavatsky's language. It is pure and expressive, which is singular, considering her Asiatic birth, and that the first languages she learned must have been Oriental, which, in their expression, certainly are very deficient in simplicity.

"Isis Unveiled" shows extensive book knowledge, and is itself a noble contribution to the literature of philosophy. The history of nations is treated of in illustration of her views, and she shows how much knowledge the Orientals, whom it is the fashion to undervalue, if not despise, have possessed and exercised for ages. Into the mysteries, into the secret societies of the East she has entered whenever it was possible, leaving knowledge in lieu of that which she received. The past is not dark to her, nor its traditions, creeds, ceremonials. Discoveries of modern science are no novelties to one who tells us how Cleopatra "sent news by a wire to all the cities, from Heliopolis to Elephantine, on the Upper Nile;" how Edison's *force* and Graham Bell's *telephone* were no secrets to the Egyptian priesthood. Her theory of miracles, to begin with Moses and end with Cagliostro, is admirably developed, legends and facts being used to establish the point. We must confess, too, that we rather admire the *audacity* (so to say) of this learned and fascinating writer. She has certain beliefs, she has certain doubts, and she expresses them moderately but firmly.

Finally, there are 1366 pages, octavo, to be carefully read, and neither skimmed nor skipped. The reader's store of knowledge will be much increased before he ends its perusal. "Isis Unveiled" is one of the most intelligible, as well as intelligent, books of the age we live in. We have to add, as evidence of the interest it has excited, that "Isis Unveiled" got into a second edition within a week, an unprecedented circumstance for a work so extensive.

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