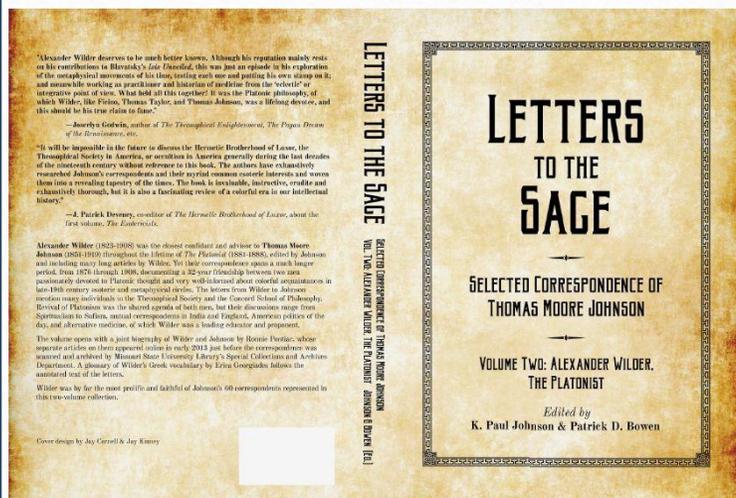


# SARAH STANLEY GRIMKÉ IN BOSTON

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Research in Washington at Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Center, and in Boston at The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity, Andover Theological Seminary (Harvard University), and the Howard Gotlieb Archival Center (Boston University)

# Letters to the Sage, Volume Two Alexander Wilder, The Platonist



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# The co-editor

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## Patrick D. Bowen

 1.0 |  Race and Religion +43

Patrick D. Bowen is a Religious Studies scholar who specializes in religious conversion and the history of non-mainline religions in the West. Most of his recent work examines conversion to Islam in the U.S., which is the topic of his 3-volume series "A History of Conversion to Islam in the United States" (Brill 2015-2020).

Patrick studied Religious Studies at the University of Colorado (B.A. 2003), at the University of Denver (M.A. 2009), and in the University of Denver-Illiff School of Theology Joint Program (Ph.D. 2013), where he specialized in Islam and Theory of Religion.

# Introduction by Ronnie Pontiac

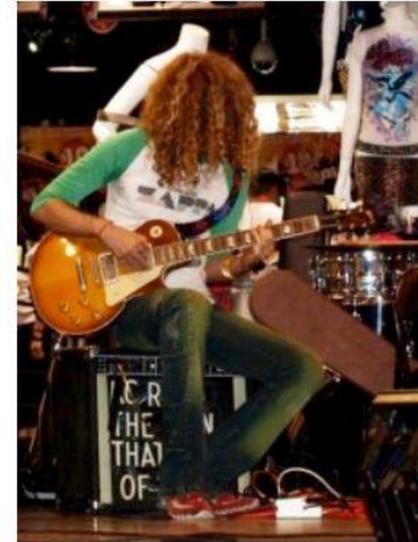
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## Ronnie Pontiac

Ronnie Pontiac is a founding member and primary guitarist of Lucid Nation, executive producer of the documentaries *Rap is War*, *Exile Nation*, and the award winning animated short *Cohen on the Bridge*. He associate produced *The Gits* documentary, and was art editor, then poet in residence for Newtopia Magazine in its former incarnation . He's a published author of works on obscure topics such as ancient Greek religion and the history of alchemy.

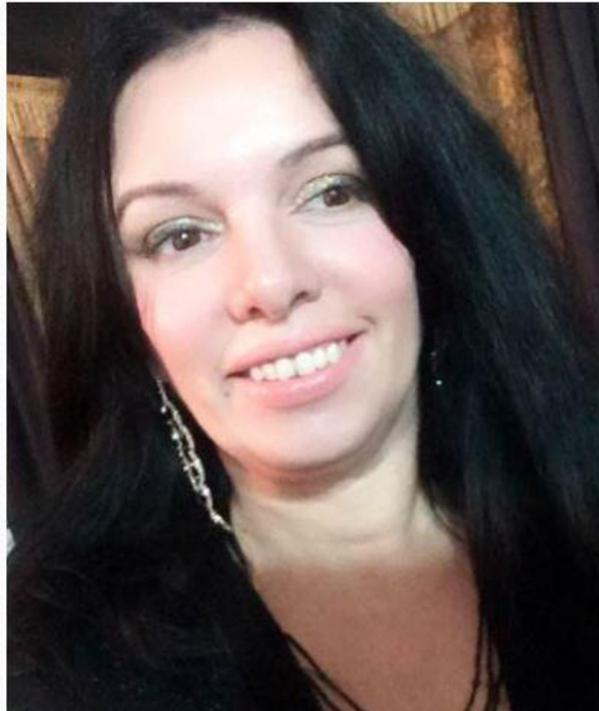
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# Glossary by Erica Georgiades

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## **BIOGRAPHY**

Erica Georgiades is currently working on a thesis – to finalize her Master degree in Ancient Religions (UWTSD)- focusing on the Socratic Daimonion. She holds a BA (Honours) in Philosophy and Psychological Studies (Open). She is also the editor of FOTA Newsletter and a researcher on Theosophical History, specially focusing on the veiled years of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky.

She has lived and worked for two years, on voluntary basis, in the Archives at the international headquarters of the Theosophical Society Adyar, Chennai, India, under the direction of Radha Burnier. She is also a member of the board of the Theosophical Society in Greece, one of the organizers of the EuST and a member of the TS since 1991.

Since 2013 she has also been exploring and studying philosophy of death, attitudes toward death, how to deal with suffering, mourning processes, loss, afterlife beliefs in the ancient Mediterranean world, as well as ancient ways to live in harmony, tranquility and peace.

# SARAH ELIZA STANLEY

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- Sarah Eliza Stanley was born in Scriba, Oswego County, New York in April 1850, the first year of her father's career as a Free Baptist clergyman. The following year Moses Stanley became pastor of a Free Baptist church in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; in 1855 he returned to New England to another Free Baptist church in Farmington, Maine, a few miles from Wilton where his wife Sarah Pease Stanley had been born in 1827. In 1859 Moses was in Two Rivers, Wisconsin as pastor of a Congregational church, and beginning in 1860 he served Episcopal churches in Michigan and Indiana. **In the first ten years of her life, Sarah thus lived in four states with a father affiliated with three denominations. Throughout her life, she formed no stable attachments to any place she could call home nor any Christian denomination, which was foreshadowed in her early childhood.**

# HOWARD GOTTLIEB ARCHIVAL CENTER BOSTON UNIVERSITY

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## A PHILOSOPHICAL EDUCATION

Sarah Stanley graduated from Boston University, with a Ph.B. awarded by the College of Liberal Arts. Her Senior class of 1878 included twelve women and fifteen men. Admission requirements for the College of Liberal Arts were daunting by modern standards, with Preliminary Examinations involving Greek and Latin Grammar and literature, Arithmetic, Algebra, English Grammar and Rhetoric, Modern History and Geography. Required Philosophy courses for all students included Theistic Philosophy, Ethical Philosophy, Evidences of Christianity, and History of Philosophy. Electives in Philosophy included Metaphysics, Logic and Theory of Knowledge, and Aesthetics. All philosophy courses were taught by Borden P. Bowne.



## Sarah Stanley Grimké and her daughter



One of the most wonderful souls that ever came to this planet...a scorching fire through which she has passed...**Her book---** “**The Light of Egypt**” is the most wonderful book of modern times though she says it will be one hundred years before the world will recognize it. She nearly lost her life in writing it but her soul never flinched from a duty.  
Emma Austin Tolles, 1898

Grimké, Archibald	Nov 16	30	L	1	Lawyer
— Sarah	Nov 7	27	Wife	1	Keeping House
— Angelina	Nov 7	3	Ed. Daughter	1	



## Sarah, Angelina, and Archibald three distinguished Grimkés



Sarah Moore Grimké, 1792-1873



Angelina Grimké Weld, 1805-1879



Archibald Henry Grimké 1849-1930

**Angelina Weld Grimké  
poet and playwright of the Harlem  
Renaissance**



*Oh how I wish that I had a mother! One to whom I might go and lay my head on her breast and weep away if possible all the bitterness. Diary, July 18, 1903*

## BRONSON ALCOTT AND MRS. GLOVER

The sacred truths which you announce sustained by facts of the Immortal Life, give to your work the seal of inspiration – reaffirm, in modern phrase, the Christian revelations...Last Sunday evening I met a pleasant circle at Mr Emersons and took occasion to speak of yourself, your Science and disciples...Next Wednesday evening, I am to meet the Divinity students at Cambridge for Conversation on Divine Ideas and methods. I think you may safely trust my commendations of your faith and methods anywhere.” January 1876, two letters

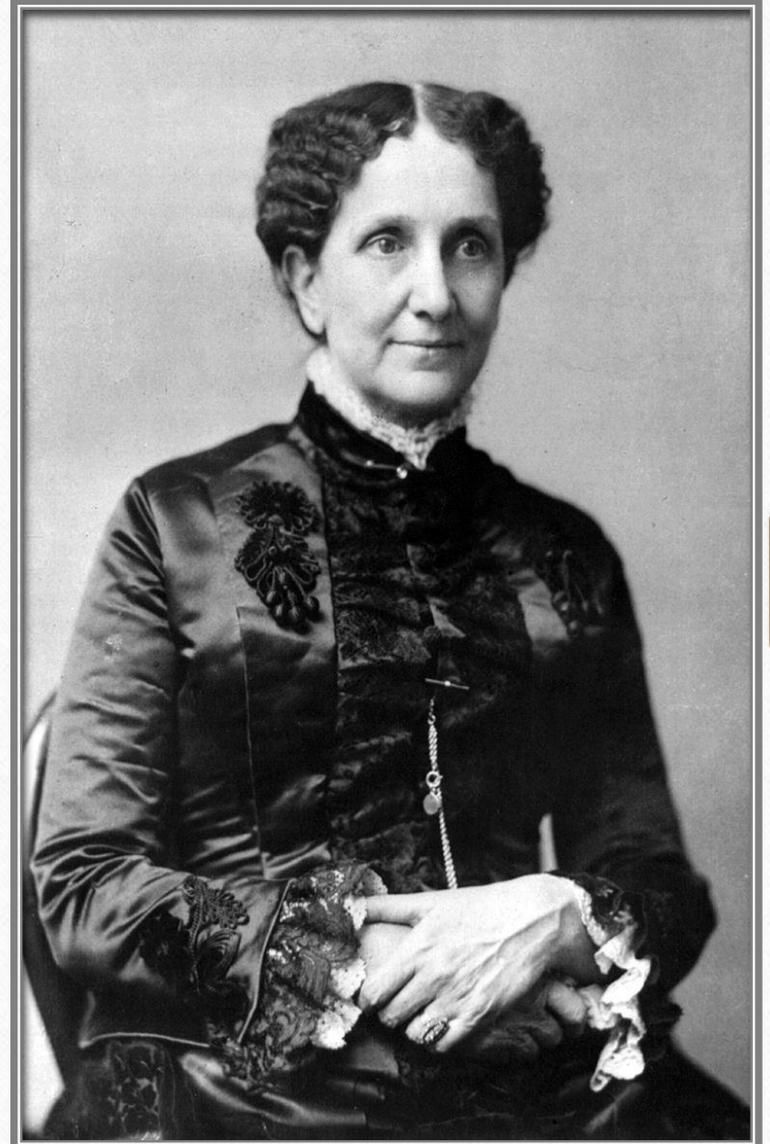


# THE MARY BAKER EDDY LIBRARY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF HUMANITY

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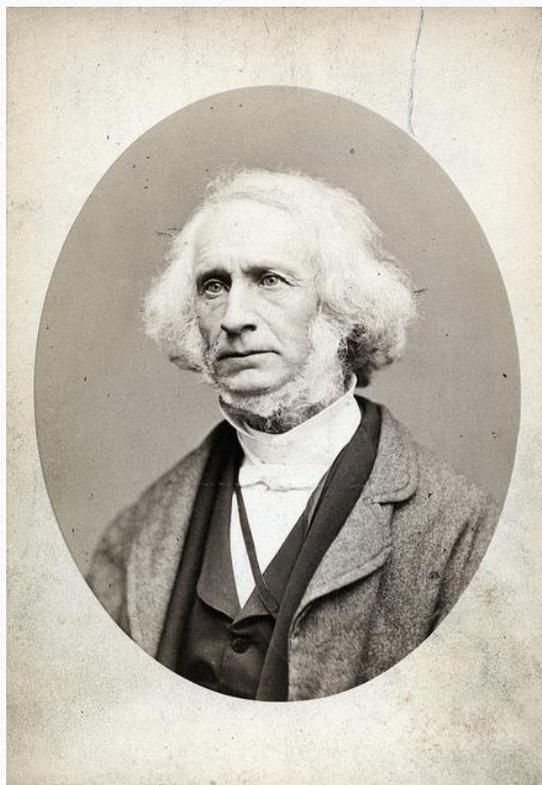
Three diary entries indicate the rise and fall of Alcott's enthusiasm for Christian Science. On January 20, 1876 he wrote "I find her one of the fair saints." More than two years later, he became involved in a court case sometimes called the "Salem witch trial" of Daniel Spofford. Alcott's diary entry for May 14, 1878 notes that he accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Eddy to Salem for the trial in which Lucretia Brown claimed to have suffered mesmeric attacks from Spofford. Three weeks later, on June 5, his first reservations about her appear in his diary: "There is perhaps a touch of fanaticism, though of a genial quality, interposed into her faith, which a deeper insight into the mysteries of life may ultimately remove."



# HARVARD ANDOVER THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY



# BARTOL AND CHRISTIAN SCIENCE



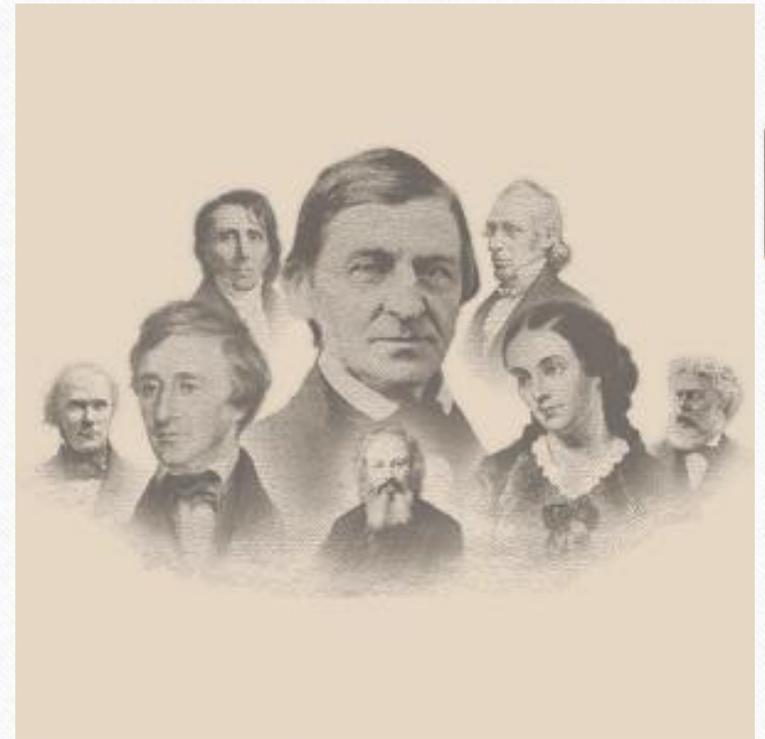
An undated note by Calvin Frye of a recollection by Mary Baker Eddy, headed “Dr. Bartol- 1868,” quotes him as telling her **“Well dear sister I can see that you are inspired and your talk about God is beautiful but I cannot <quite>understand it I am afraid others will not I would not try to talk it for people will think you are insane.”**...the *Christian Science Journal* in December 1884 ...commented that **“There is no occupant of a Boston pulpit broader in his religious sympathies, or more sensitive in his spiritual fellowship, than the Rev. Dr. C.A. Bartol”** who “has always been foremost in the recognition of ecclesiastical progress...”

# AMERICAN TRANSCENDENTALISTS

(from Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

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- Transcendentalism is an American literary, political, and philosophical movement of the early nineteenth century, centered around Ralph Waldo Emerson. Other important transcendentalists were Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, Amos Bronson Alcott, Frederic Henry Hedge, and Theodore Parker... They were critics of their contemporary society for its unthinking conformity, and urged that each person find, in Emerson's words, "an original relation to the universe"... By the 1840s they, along with other transcendentalists, were engaged in the social experiments of Brook Farm, Fruitlands, and Walden; and, by the 1850s in an increasingly urgent critique of American slavery.



“Theodore Parker, Dr. Peabody, Dr. Bartol  
Wm R. Alger, etc. were my model men”

- Unitarian clergyman Samuel B. Stewart performed the marriage ceremony of Asa Eddy and Mary Baker Glover, who had attended his services with her former colleague Richard Kennedy. Near the end of her long life, several pieces of evidence suggest that Eddy's early esteem for Unitarianism was undiminished. In November 1897...she commented that “to my apprehension unity and love are the exemplification of Unitarianism, even as the Christ healing is the demonstration of Christian Science,” adding “My acquaintance with Unitarians has been of a happy sort for their lives have illustrated their religion.” Six months later, she followed up with another letter praising several Unitarian clergymen by name, writing that “Theodore Parker, Dr. Peabody, Dr. Bartol, Wm. R. Alger, etc. were my model men. They did much towards unchaining the limbs of Love and giving freedom to its footsteps.” In recognition of years of friendly relations with the Unitarian Church in Concord, New Hampshire, Eddy left them \$5000 in her will.

# PHILOSOPHY IN CONCORD

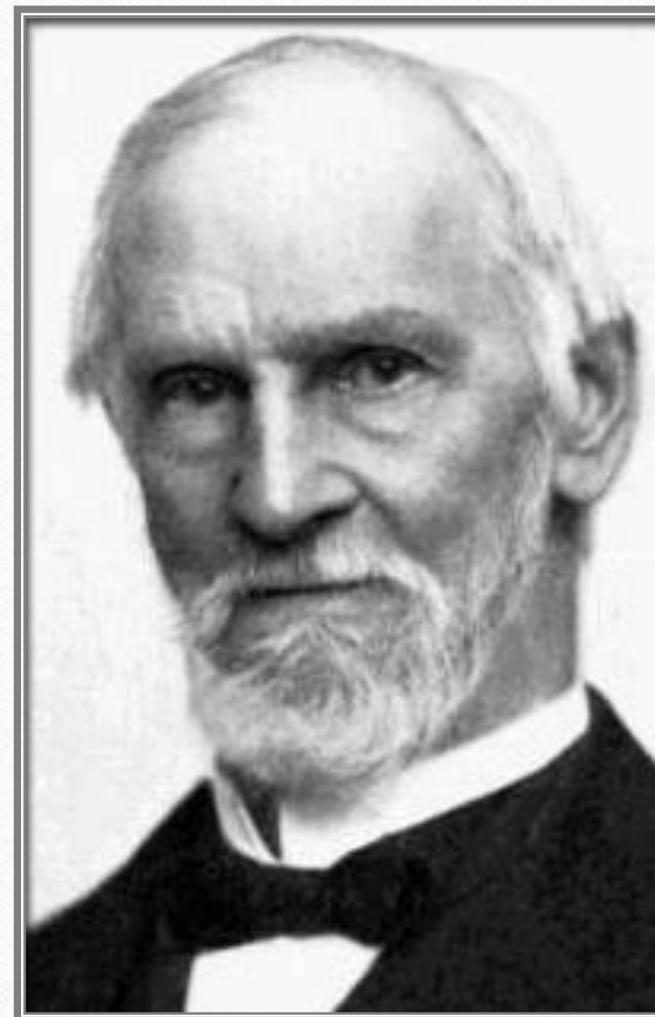
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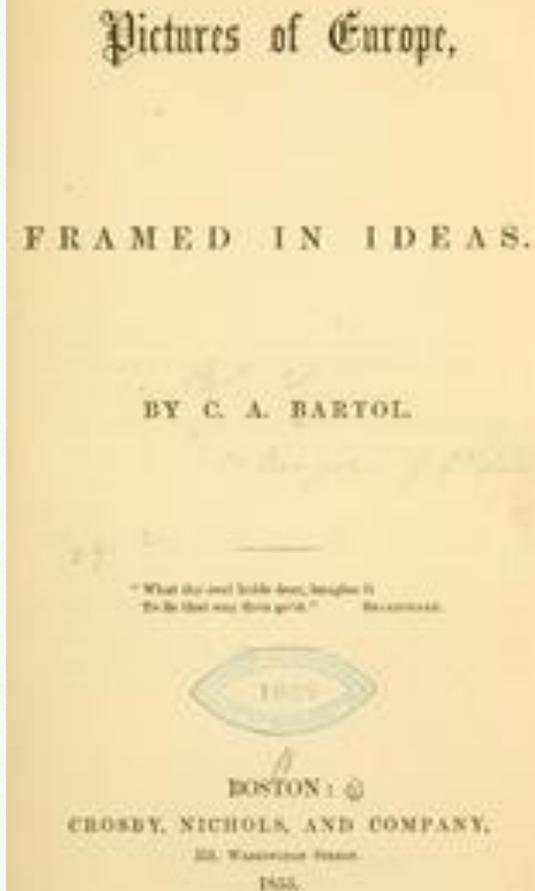


- Johnson's *Platonist* was conceived simultaneously with the Concord School in 1879 where Cyrus Bartol, a warm personal friend of the Alcotts, was a featured speaker. The impetus for the School came not from Concord but from a group of Missouri and Illinois Platonists Bronson Alcott had met in his ten "Western tours." In March 1888 Bartol presided at the funerals of Bronson Alcott and his daughter Louisa May, only two days apart.

## ALEXANDER WILDER 1822-1908

Wilder, a Medical Doctor of the Eclectic School, was Thomas Johnson's closest advisor in the content and publication of *The Platonist*. His letters do not mention the HBoFL but have plenty of insights into the early Theosophical Society and more so in the cases of the American Akademie of Philosophy and the Concord School of Philosophy.





## AESTHETIC TRANSCENDENTALISM

The mental pictures theme found in Grimké's writing, as well as her literary style, may owe more to Bartol than to Christian Science. His 1855 collection of sermons, *Pictures of Europe, Framed in Ideas*, combined travel writing and Transcendentalism. The *Cambridge American Companion to Travel Writing* describes his 1855 book as “affirming the value of a universal religious reverence inherent in human nature and expressed in religious art and architecture.”

# HOWARD UNIVERSITY MAIN LIBRARY

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## FRANCES PILLSBURY VS. ELIZABETH STUART

“And allow me, now, to most solemnly warn you that the one you call your good fairy is your evil genius, in that she prompts you to seek fame & power instead of Peace & Good-will. The Earthly, instead of the Celestial.” Sarah to Archie, January 1885

Sarah would never stay away in this manner if her relatives showed her the wrong of it. Now Archie I have thought of one way to open the Reverend clergyman’s eyes. This is to write him an anonymous letter giving him an account of Mrs. Stewart’s witchcraft- of her ascribing demonic powers & acts to you – of her outrageous money making & promising patients to nine other weak women in the same village &c &c— Frances Pillsbury to Archie, October 1884

## MOHINI CHATTERJI IN BOSTON

During the years of his TS involvement he did more than any other Indian to promote Western appreciation of Hinduism, and to integrate Hindu ideas with an Western esoteric framework. He is featured prominently in my *Initiates of Theosophical Masters* as one of the “Patriotic Chelas” motivated by Indian nationalism. After success in England and Ireland as a missionary for the TS, he came to America where his mission became an independent one at odds with Theosophy.





## BARTOL AND MOHINI

It affords me very great pleasure to have this opportunity of saluting a body of men, brothers and Christians, in the name of the God who is the one God, no matter under how many different names and different forms he may be worshipped; the God who is the Father of all men, in whom we live and move and have our being... In the home of my childhood there was a book called "The Precepts of Jesus: Guide to Peace and Happiness." This book was written by an ancestor of mine. *Mohini at the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the arrival of the Rev. Cyrus A. Bartol (1813-1900) as pastor of Old West Unitarian Church.*