

A JOURNAL FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

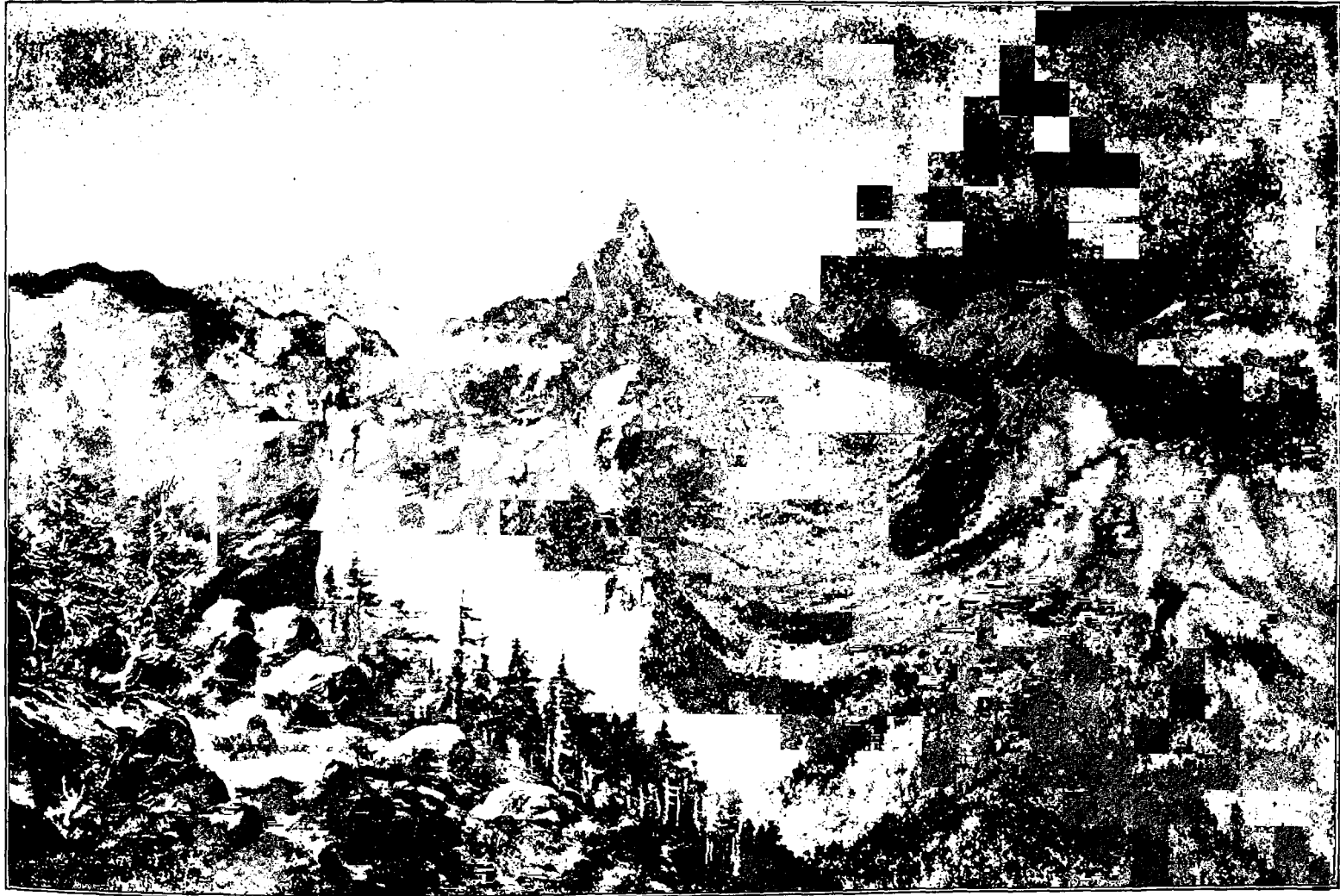
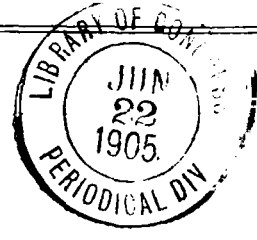
# Christian

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Thomas J. Shelton  
1657 Clarkson St., Denver, Colo.

Twelfth Year  
July, 1905

Regeneration of the Body by the Resurrection of the Mind



"EPWORTH MOUNTAIN"  
ORIGINAL PAINTING BY CHARLES H. HARMON

## ITEMS AND IDEAS.

\*\*\* June had the sea for a keynote.

\*\*\* July gives you a view of the mountains of Colorado.

\*\*\* It is from the painting of "Epworth Mountain," by Charles H. Harmon.

\*\*\* Let the "Sail On" be changed to one that fits the mountains, "Climb Higher!"

\*\*\* Send money any old way *at your own risk*. But be sure that you put my street number or CHRISTIAN on your envelope, as there are other Sheltons in Denver, and there is another Thomas. The safe way is to register or get a money order.

\*\*\* My beloved friends and fellow travelers to health, one dollar only pays for one person, and it does not include the whole family and all the kinsonia. When you get a yearly subscription or two books thrown in for good count, don't keep on counting.

\*\*\* Why don't you look before you jump? All kinds of wild cat schemes in the way of stock companies are being floated. There is no use to come to me with your grievance after you have made the investment. Ask advice from a reputable banker or broker.

\*\*\* By the way, my wife has just given a hint for you to follow. Put it into real estate. You can't expect big returns from a small investment even in legitimate companies. It is always safe to put your money into property. You are influenced by suggestion. For the air is full of the get-rich-quick suggestion.

\*\*\* It is better for you not to give me a list of diseases. When you write them down with their abominable names, you but fasten the thought in your mind. I AM giving treatments for Health, and see Health for you all the time. It does not help me for you to tell me the names of diseases with which you are afflicted.

\*\*\* In this good old summer time let me remind you that I do not receive callers or make calls. I would have to quit work if I did it. Physical presence is nothing. My mental callers are welcome every day and at any hour of the day. Some people are offended because I do not receive callers, but I cannot help it. People in London receive just as close attention as those in the next block.

\*\*\* I do not lend or borrow. This rule is essential to my financial salvation. Mrs. Shelton kept account of just one week in June. And the calls on me for money amounted to an even seven hundred dollars. This was a little above the average. All these applications came through the mail from persons unknown to me by sight. My work would be jeopardized, even if I were fool enough as an individual to listen to such appeals.

\*\*\* "I want a mental message of some kind from you to me. So many people have had them, why can't I?"

I never play at telepathy. The mental messages are going out from this center all the time. If you can't get one you are a very poor receiver. The message may come

up into your own mind as part of your own thinking. Many persons write saying they are ashamed to come to me for treatments for they ought to be able to stand alone. I want you to understand right now, henceforth and forever, that when you come to me you are not going outside of yourself. I consider myself a patient of the Spirit of Truth right along with the rest of us. All that I can do as an individual is to give treatments and leave results to the Spirit. We are all in the same procession bound for Kingdom Come.

\*\*\* There is a law of vibration. You would be surprised to see how that law works in our mail. Certain kinds of people come in a bunch. In spite of my liberal terms, there are whole mails that we call deadhead, people who ask for free treatments without even sending a postage stamp. You don't want to get into that vibration. The rule works both ways. The successful ones also come in a bunch. I AM treating you to get into the right bunch. It is for your own good as well as mine.

\*\*\* "You do not shock me with your reincarnation ideas. I have felt for years that my son Herbert was my brother come back. I even unconsciously call him brother. His laugh and so many of his ways are like my brother. He was my only brother and passed away at the age of twenty-one. I almost idolized him. I was six years older and when we lost our mother I took a mother's interest in the boy. What about the spiritualists? Their friends all come back for years and communicate with them. It seems that they are not reincarnated."

Do decarnate spirits communicate to living persons in the flesh? It is still an open question. For years I held communication with departed spirits. But in all my experience I did not receive a new thought. I believe it was my sub-conscious self talking to me. Every communication could be traced to my own memory. I prefer your belief that your brother was attracted to you and became incarnate in your son. Some day we will have clearer light on this subject.

\*\*\* "My husband and I have worked together for more than thirty years. We have worked hard, saved, stinted, and economized. The stinting and saving has all been on our own side, for we have been free-handed to other people. Now we are worn out and discouraged, with nothing for our old age."

Such appeals come to me every day, or at least every week. It is caused by that abominable teaching called self-sacrifice. This man and woman have been slaving, absolutely slaving for other people and now in their old age, they find themselves in poverty, sickness and misery. The ones they helped will not help them. The self-sacrificing ones always sacrifice themselves, and never do any good to the ones for whom they are slaving. It is the same old tune of "Jesus paid it all." You will have to learn to cultivate selfishness before you will be scientific.

\*\*\* "Tom: Another push. Dick."

The only one that has beat Dick for brevity is the man who mailed a silver dollar with my address pasted on one side and

his on the other. Did you know that you can send a silver dollar in the common mail? You can and it only takes one cent postage.

\*\*\* "Need we on this side of the continent worry over the predictions of mediums and astrologers concerning the havoc to be wrought by earthquakes in 1905? For several years it has been hanging over us particularly in New York City and its suburbs. A celebrated astrologist last year made terrible predictions for us. Will Colorado be a safer place for a year or two?"

By all means let the scared ones come to Denver if they have the price. The old Rockies are the joints in the spinal column of the continent. It is true that the whole state of Colorado is volcanic. Denver is built right in the crater of a volcano, Cripple Creek in another, and in fact, the whole state was once in the air. If you want to go to guessing, let us say that an earthquake will cut Panama Canal. It will save us the bother and expense. The two oceans will rush together and a tidal wave will envelope New York. I will not prolong your agony by making any more guesses. How are you going to get away from an earthquake? The oceans were once dry land, and the dry land oceans. You can go out, as we did yesterday on a trolley excursion to Golden, and pick up pieces of lava. This little planet may blow up any day. But, my beloved, what is there for mortality anywhere, but death? You can hear the wheels of the undertaker's wagon just around the corner. Don't get scared. Perhaps you would die happier blown up than in any other way. So long.

\*\*\* "Don't oil your feathers so complacently. I have two of Harmon's pictures myself."

So writes a California Christian. I congratulate you. There are no pictures in this world like Harmon's. He is not like any other artist, that is, he is not an imitator. The joy of his work lies in its individuality. He puts his own impress on everything he paints. By the way, if you want a copy, in colors, of the photographic reprint on the first page of CHRISTIAN, send 50 cents to Charles H. Harmon, 16th and Broadway, Denver, Colo. You understand, this is only a photographic reprint reduced of the large oil painting sold to the Epworth League for \$1,000. It is to be hung in Epworth headquarters in Chicago.

\*\*\* "I wondered why you didn't do a little boasting on your prediction long ago that Roosevelt would be the next president after McKinley. You ought to have tooted your own horn a little over that prophecy."

It wasn't my horn. I spoke what I heard. It was a surprise to me that Roosevelt should succeed McKinley so suddenly. I said he would serve two terms. He has served one term and has been elected for another. He has declared that he will not be a candidate for re-election. I said that after his second term a Republican would be elected and serve one term. After that the Union Labor Party would elect a president. So far everything has been fulfilled. Let us see what we will see in the next eight years. I made the predictions May 7, 1901.

\*\*\* "Continue my advertisement in the Silence for customers. I am able to do more and like my work. I am rejoiced that you did not hoot at the thought of such advertising."

I never hoot at a good thought. I hung out your sign in the thought atmosphere and you have been reaping your reward.

\*\*\* "In what way does a person feel the vibration? Is there anything that I can do that will assist me in spiritual development?"

It is owing to your own temperament as to how you will receive the vibrations. Some people catch the movement of the Spirit by an uplifting of the soul in direct physical feeling. Others get the very words spoken in the Silence. Some only have an uplifting of the mind while the thoughts come into their own being as part of their own thinking. You must not look for an electric battery movement. That kind of vibration belongs to moon mediumship. The Spirit of Truth is the light of the Sun. As for reading, let the Spirit select for you. As a general thing you read too much. Mix your reading, if you have to turn to a dime novel. *Too much of any one thing is not good for mental digestion.*

\*\*\* "Give us some of your ideas of rebirth. You must be able to see some of the past, for Spirit is not onesided in that it shows the future only. What were some of your earliest experiences in unfoldment, and what led you to change your habits of living and turn teacher in this line rather than the old one of preaching?"

I can only see as far back as my own birth in the present flesh and I can only see forward by prophecy. You are right about there being no onesided revelation of the Spirit. "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen." You see the prayer book has made a scientific statement, and "world without end" would be a round world, a circle, and so it is with this unfolding life. I changed my habits of living, because the Spirit of Truth took me by the nape of the neck and the seat of the trousers, as it were, and threw me out of the church, but I went right on preaching just the same. I had the whole world for an audience and plenty of room in which to grow. My congregation is increasing day by day and I know that I am unfolding in the truth, else they would not stay with me.

\*\*\* "Treat me for Health and Prosperity. I will rustle up the Happiness myself."

Well, I hope you will, but I have known many persons who were full of prosperity and health that were miserably unhappy. Of the three things for which I treat, happiness is the hardest thing to get. Health and prosperity may come from the outside but happiness always comes from within. God is happy and God is always on the inside.

\*\*\* "That little boy that the doctor said could not be cured is ever so much better, so nearly so that his mother thinks there is no need of sending for more treatments. She is very thankful to you. Sakes! why don't you heal me that quick. The doctor says a young person is harder to cure than the older ones."

Thank the Lord (that's me) for the healing of the little boy and tell your doctor

that his rule may work all right with drugs, but it doesn't with mental treatments. A young person will respond to mental treatments quicker than an older one and children are the easiest of all, for they are in the Kingdom of Heaven. You old tough sinners are a hard lot.

\*\*\* "When I wrote you first I had just one dollar left after sending you one. That same day a five dollar shirt waist suit came into the shop (your wife will know what that is) and I am a dressmaker. Well, June the first found my rent all paid and myself feeling first rate, but no dollar for CHRISTIAN. Yesterday I thought hard about that dollar for I saw no money in sight for this week at least. This morning the mail brought me a letter from a poor little soul, who owed me a little change, and in that letter came Shelton's dollar as true as I live and into the post office it goes before night, for the Spirit sent it and I forward it with an old lady's blessing."

I give the above as a sample of the good CHRISTIAN is doing to all classes of people. Many persons like this good woman, would quit, give up, get out of heart and sink if it were not for the vibrations from the Circle of Christians. You see we are helping each other by joining hands.

\*\*\* "I was made joyful for once the other day, when I shook the hand of one who has followed you about as long as I have, and who says he loves you as do we all. I have never had the happiness of meeting such an one and wanted to, for there are many of course we know."

Yes, after awhile we Christians will know each other by the vibrations. There will not be any need of words spoken by the mouth or signs made by the hands. We will know because we know and whether it is in a crowded train or on the streets we will recognize the vibrations when we meet each other. Mark this word for it is a prophecy.

\*\*\* "I would thank all the stars in Heaven if it ever could come to stay for me not to work with my husband. I mean be with him and around him all day long, for you know if there is anything missing or out of place or out of tune, it is not his fault, but mine. That's the way he thinks anyhow. Now I don't want to kick him full of holes either for I know he has many good qualities. He is a champion good hot air slinger, that goes with the crowd all right, but not with me."

So writes a business woman who is a partner with her husband. It so happened that he opened a branch store in another part of the city and she ran things by herself for a while. It is said that no man is a hero to his valet. The same rule works that no husband is a successful hot air slinger to his wife. It is a shame that women won't take all of our eloquence and grandiloquent talk, but I think it is because we sling our eloquence around when we are putting on our collar. You see if you would just wait until you had made your toilet and primped up a little she wouldn't know it was you. I hope the aforesaid husband will not recognize this item for it might cause him to sling something heavier than hot air.

\*\*\* "I will refer you to the case of E. She is worthy of prosperity or I am no judge. She is the most unselfish, self-sacrificing, industrious person that I ever knew. It is she who subscribed for CHRISTIAN for me. I prize it highly and read it thoroughly. It

would take too much of your time to read an account of all her misfortunes. Everything goes wrong. We are hungry for the Truth in the most approved style. We approve and applaud all you say. What is the matter with us?"

You have stated a very common case and I will diagnose it for you. Your friend E has a chronic disease called self-sacrifice. It is the rot of religion. It is the old story that God sacrificed his son to save us sinners. *It is a damned lie!* Don't be shocked. I AM speaking scientifically and by the Spirit of Truth. That lie has damned more people than any other lie that was ever told, therefore, it is a damned lie. All over this land are old white-haired men and women who have believed that lie and sacrificed their own lives to no good. No one was ever benefited by accepting the self-sacrifice of another. Every manly brain, every womanly virtue, rebels against the doctrine, and yet it gets so fastened into the mind that children will live on the very life blood of their parents. It is not Christianity. Jesus Christ said "except you take up your cross," except you bear your own burdens, you can not be my disciple. Your friend E. has given away herself. She has been so liberal with herself that she hasn't any self left. When you sacrifice yourself you sacrifice all there is of you. If you are bankrupt don't blame God. Once more let me say, in the name of Christianity cultivate selfishness.

\*\*\* "Do you still give treatments outside the Circle of Christians? If so I want to send for a month's treatment. I seem to get help quicker from you than any of the others I have tried."

Certainly I give treatments by the month, whether you belong to the Circle of Christians or not. No one has to come into the Circle of Christians. It is not an organization. It is a growth. You can have a single month of treatments and receive a year of CHRISTIAN or two copies of my book for a dollar.

\*\*\* "I think I hear you saying, 'Brace up and claim your own.' Can you tell me how to do it? If so will you answer through CHRISTIAN?"

John Sherman said "the only way to resume Specie Payment is to resume." The only way to brace up and claim your own is to brace up and claim your own. If you try to do it by reading somebody's rules, you will find that, instead of bracing up, you will get a weakness in your spinal column. The Spirit of Truth does not work by rules. It is a vibration, a movement from within you.

\*\*\* "I receive all I ask for. I am happy and I thank you. Your treatments, your words, your writings, helped me to find (as you say) myself. In all perplexities I now wait for Spirit to speak and direct. I am always answered. Before I knew you I did not understand the wonderful soothing power of Silence, and what a necessary medium it is for Spirit."

You have stated every thing in few words. Going into the Silence is but another name for going into the Spirit, for the Silence is the Spirit. It is the great underlying substance of Being. Now don't think of substance as you do of ponderable matter. Substance is intelligence, wisdom, love and everything that we call Mind.

\*\*\* "I wonder why I can not accept Mrs. Eddy's teachings? Is it because I am more advanced? I feel perfectly at home, and filled to overflowing with all that is beautiful and good, after reading CHRISTIAN. To me it means so much to be one of the Circle of Christians. I can not be thankful enough to you for directing me into the Spirit of Truth."

I see by the papers that one of the great leaders in Christian Science, Dr. Charles G. Pease, has left the church and written a book charging Christian Science with being Self-Hypnotism. I have nothing against any creed. I have none myself and there isn't anything of the kind in the Circle of Christians. Everything that has a tendency to hypnotism the true Christian will avoid. All this healing through suggestion is of the same brand. It is self-hypnotism. The Spirit of Truth brings you all of the truth because it is the truth. You are not learning the truth, when the Spirit of Truth comes to you for you are the Truth. You don't have to say over any words or practice any rules, you are the thing in itself. You are neither a leader or a follower. You are yourself. Christian Science is an improvement on the churches, but it is like putting another old garment on a scare-crow. It is the same old scare-crow.

\*\*\* "Your letter was a pleasant surprise to me. I should say a joyful one. I was surprised at the generosity of your offer in including me in the Circle of Christians. I rejoice at the evidence before me of at least one True Christian on earth. Please accept my thanks for same. The cloud is already lifting and I feel quite sure I will some day find plenty of money in my pocket."

The above is from a good woman who wanted to stop CHRISTIAN, because she couldn't pay for it. She is crediting me with being one True Christian, on account of my generosity. Well, as I sit here at this desk and look around me, to the east and the west, to the north and the south, I see thousands and thousands of Christians and it is to their generosity that she owes this gift of CHRISTIAN for two years. I couldn't do anything in that line by myself. It is the association and spiritual fellowship which enables us as a company of Christians to do this work for all concerned. I am very happy in slinging their money around. When you Christians don't send a name for the paid list, I credit your dollar to the free list and from this list I give CHRISTIAN to persons who deserve it. I will not send out the paper haphazard any more.

\*\*\* "And so you have come out strong for reincarnation, have you? Well! nothing ever surprises me now; if it did I should give vent to some exclamation. I have never gone into the subject very deeply, so am not prepared to discuss it. I will say this though, that I admire your frankness and courage; a thing which you decry and pooh at in one magazine you will uphold and champion in the next."

You call that frankness and courage; some people who write in here without your love for me, call it a wishywashy mind. You pay your money and you take your choice! I don't know whether I have come out for reincarnation or not. I AM sure I don't endorse the incarnation theories of Theosophy. I think that matter is changeable and Spirit

is unchangeable. I AM Spirit and my fleshy envelope is matter. Even when I reach regeneration I do not expect to wear the same body all the time. I shall renew it day by day. I think it will always be fresh and new, and I will enjoy life because of this every day newness of my environment. Space is infinite and it is filled with what the material scientists call ponderable matter. The individual Spirit is free to explore this infinite space, this universe of ether, this limitless ocean of Spirit. I have been putting on and throwing off matter by a kind of unconscious movement. When I come into the consciousness of Spirit I shall put on and throw off this matter by a conscious movement. I will do it because I know how to do it. I will get me a new suit of clothes whenever I need one. This thing of wearing an old body full of holes and sores and frazzled edges is unscientific. Lord! how you women do look into the mirror. Yes, and hate the wrinkles! I don't blame you.

\*\*\* "Does a fellow have to come back here every time he dies and does his coming back here end when he quits dying, as you say you have decided to do? If we don't profit by our former experiences here on earth what is the use of having such experiences? I can't see that I have gained anything through my former incarnations. I have no shadow of such recollections of former states. I am surprised to see you adopting the theory of former incarnations and of others to follow. Isn't that Theosophy pure and simple? I would rather die and stay dead than to be coming back here every few years to sweat and to struggle to get through to the time to die again."

I think that your former experience has enabled you to write this letter to me. You certainly do not want any recollections of former incarnations. You don't want the present crowded with the past. You want to get the lesson that you are now learning and put it away with the others for future reference. I don't think that we ever come back "here" for we never come back "here" from any experience. You take the "here" along with you. You learn the staff in music and may be able to play like a Paderewski, but you don't go back to learn the staff, you take it along with you. You had to learn the alphabet, but you may be able to write like a Shakespeare without going back to learn the alphabet. You take it along with you. Truth is forever with you after you have once learned it. The fundamental principles of knowledge are never left behind you. This may be my first experience on this planet. I don't know where I have been in the past and I don't know where I am going in the future. I will stay here and see the show as long as it is interesting. The point for us to get is that we are Spirit and therefore should be the monarchs of matter. The matter that is in our bodies should be so adjusted that we can use it instead of being used by it. Let your horizon be wider than this little dirt-dauber's nest called the earth. I AM not teaching Theosophy or any other doctrine. I do not belong to anybody or anything and I don't want you to accept of anything that I say because I say it. Let us look at everything

with unbiased eyes and unprejudiced minds. We don't have to swear by any creed or formulate any kind of faith. We are Christians, and Christianity is the Spirit of Truth. Set up any kind of ten pins that we want to and knock them down. Then go and set 'em up again just for the fun of knocking these mental bumps out of the way. There is no way to get into the Truth except by the royal road of individual freedom. I will believe anything that I want to believe, and disbelieve anything that I want to disbelieve. Lord bless you, children of the earth, let us be free to accept or reject.

\*\*\* "At what hour do you give your treatments in the Healing Room? Are there any rules for Christians to follow?"

I give treatments in the Healing Room generally from 9 o'clock in the morning until noon. Then in the afternoon and evenings, any time in the night or day when I feel like it. There are no rules for Christians to follow. If they had any rules and regulations they would not be Christians. There are no strings tied to Christians. They are not governed by the almanac or the clock. They are free from the restraints of bondage. Just kick up your heels and go on your way rejoicing.

\*\*\* "Do you know that doctrine of reincarnation threw me down flat on my back? Say, dear Shelton, I don't want to become a puling infant and go through this earth life again. The earth is all right, but I want to advance from glory to glory! The reincarnation theory is very repulsive to me. Is there no way of escape for us who don't want it? Of course I'm aware that my liking or disliking will not change matters."

I don't know about this dislike to being a puling infant. I notice that babies get many blessings and hugs and are made much of by their mothers. But if you can settle it any other way, bless you, go on and settle it. The only explanation for death is birth, and the only explanation for birth is death. Now, what are you going to do about it? There is no more sense in being born than there is in being buried. A man wrote fifteen pages and asked me for an explanation of the whole matter, and I answered him in one word—damfino.

\*\*\* "I received CHRISTIAN, and have read it once, but always find more enjoyment in second or third reading."

That is a sensible way to read CHRISTIAN, for it will bear reading not only the second or third time, but the second or third year. Truth is the same yesterday, to-day and forever.

\*\*\* "One month ago to-day I drew a draft for one dollar for treatments for worry and despondency. Had been suffering for months. I got your vibrations at once and was well in a few days and have remained well ever since. I didn't send the money, but as it really belongs to you I enclose it in this letter."

That's the kind of people that I AM dealing with all the time. If they call me up and get the treatments and receive blessings they are ready to acknowledge the source and send the money. Honesty is one of the ingredients that enters into the composition of a Christian.



\*\*\* In sending names for the paid list, you should notify or find out before hand so that the paper will be cordially received. Persons who have been put on the paid list have returned CHRISTIAN, saying that they were not subscribers and did not want it. Let them know that you are sending the paper with your good will. It is a big thing, this putting your friends on the paid list. It works like a charm, and has done more to increase the subscription list than any other movement. Keep it up, but don't force the paper on any body.

\*\*\* "Do you ever get all in tangles? I wish you would treat me particularly for good judgment in temporal affairs and still more for that beautiful and perfect poise of one's inner self, that restful and all powerful sense of being absolutely at one with omnipotent wisdom."

Yes, I often get into tangles. It is when I try to untangle things for myself. Sometimes I get a kind of fool notion in my mind that I know more than God. Then the Spirit just leaves me alone for a while. I get so muddled that I don't know which way to turn so I don't turn at all. I sit still until the real man comes to the front and he knows it all. I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life. What we want is clair-being. We have had little smatterings of clairvoyance and clairaudience, but what we want is to call up the whole being, and know that the divine mind is the only way to wisdom.

\*\*\* That was a June jest about the auto, but you Christians have received it with such good will that it makes walking easier. Your wishes and thoughts have come in with such force that we really begin to think that the automobile will materialize. You have given us a good treatment for it.

\*\*\* Let all new readers remember that I give a year of subscription to CHRISTIAN for every dollar sent for treatments, or, if you prefer it, I will mail you two copies of my book "I AM Sermons." This gives you the treatments free of charge. Now, don't get the idea in your head that I give any free treatments. They are virtually free since the books or subscriptions are worth a dollar. I do not give any kind of "free" treatments, for it would be an injury to the patient, as well as to myself.

\*\*\* "I want to tell you how well and happy I am and what a good season I have had, the best one yet. The block I have been in more than ten years has been sold, and I must vacate by January first. Kindly help me to attract and move into the very best store for me. I have just finished reading CHRISTIAN for June, it is fine. I love CHRISTIAN in whatever form you send it out, for it is always growing, whether the size be increased or reduced. After reading every word I got May, which I have read several times, and read it again. I have never thought we returned to this earth again, but went on unfolding on some other planet or place. Not that I object to this earth, it is beautiful, but if we have been returning here so many times we must be learning the same lessons over and over. I can't think of the great masters forgetting all of their wonderful knowledge of painting, music, etc., and learning or trying to learn to play the pieces they once composed, or copying a picture they once painted. I would rather think of Emerson remembering all that Truth re-

vealed to him and going on to heights beyond. Somehow I want to remember the lessons I have learned and go on learning others, so many of our lessons are learned through heartaches, it seems hard to have them count for naught. However, the way of Truth must be a perfect way. That knowledge ought to satisfy me and it does. Am glad to know the wife is home again and hope she had a delightful trip. I think of and come often to the dear 'center of health, happiness and success' and always have a good time."

The above is nearly every word of a letter from a business woman in Denver. It is too good to abbreviate. Spirit does not say that we return to this planet every time. Matter or the objective world is as vast as the world of the subjective. The Universe is Spirit and Matter. The one is as infinite as the other. Spirit is the substance of things and matter is the clothing of this substance. If we were inhabitants of any other planet our individual spirits would be clothed with the same kind of material, for matter is one and the same everywhere, whether in the body of man, a tree or a rock. The earth is a very small planet and so we may go from this to a larger and better appointed world. There is one thing sure and that is that nothing is ever lost. The lessons that you have learned can never be forgotten. Memory may lapse for a time, but it is recovered and all things that have been stored away are found intact and ready for use. Emerson is still a greater and mightier Emerson though he may be known by some other name.

\*\*\* "I would like treatment for success as well as for bodily ailments. What must I do to secure both treatments?"

You always get three treatments or treatments for three things: Health, Happiness and Prosperity. This is the Trinity of Being. You cover the whole ground of your existence with health, happiness and prosperity. It really means health, for it is health of the mind to be happy, health of the body, health of the pocket book. They all go together.

\*\*\* "I don't know of any books I have read more times than your two. I do not think of the man that wrote them, for it doesn't seem to be possible that such expressions of Truth can be understood when first written any more than from the first reading. Simplicity to me is everything, as it is responsible for the impression of an idea at first sight. I find your books to be simple and easily understood, and they impress me with the fact that they are written for all time."

This is true so far as the thought is concerned. I never "think" what I am saying until after it is said. I read CHRISTIAN with just as much interest after it is printed as any other reader. It is no more "mine" than it is yours. I speak what I hear, and then look at it afterwards to see what is said.

\*\*\* "And so they praise you to the skies. I observe. They have no discrimination. The fact is you are a great big donkey and don't know your own mind two minutes."

So brays an anonymous ass from Boston. It is funny that nearly all the adverse criticisms of CHRISTIAN come from Boston, and are always anonymous. There are a great many Christians also in Boston, but they

never write without signing their names, no matter whether they praise or blame. They are not ashamed of their own signatures.

\*\*\* "You have inspired the old hen Emily with courage sufficient to continue setting a little longer on her hard nest. Some times I think there is something harder than door knobs under me, but should I ever be lucky enough to hatch out the real thing my fate won't be like poor old Emily, the crazy hen in the 'Virginian.' Have not wanted to die since reading your last paper. I have rebelled against the idea of having to come back here to earth and having to live another life here with all its suffering all over again. I don't want to believe in reincarnation and what is more I won't, so there! You will die just as much as I shall, so will your soul mate. Don't tickle yourselves that you and she will live right along here and the rest of us poor ducks have got to come back again and be worked over into something else. Several years ago, right in this lifetime, I turned into something else, which I have never been able to tell what, so will ring down the curtain. Now I am writing this for another month's treatment for my soul's mate. Hope you will cure him, because we want to stay right on top of the earth as well as you and your beloved. Am glad she has reached home safely. Keep her there."

Well, Emily, your cackling amuses me. In one sentence you declare that my mate and I will die, and then a few sentences afterward you tell me that you send a dollar to keep you and your mate on top of the earth! Well, it does make a difference as to who is doing the cackling. I don't care whether you believe in reincarnation or not. I like to get out once in a while and declare that I don't believe in anything, and then I take a fresh start and believe in everything. But if anybody came along and flung their fists in my face and said that I had to believe that the earth turned round, I would be stubborn enough to say it stood still. The only way to stay on top of the earth is to be perfectly willing to leave it. The only way that you can succeed in anything is to be absolutely indifferent as to whether you succeed or not. All this concentration is the veriest moonshine. The only mind that you could concentrate would be the mortal mind and it is mud.

\*\*\* "I thank you for the wonderful help you are sending me. I am seeing and feeling Light. I walk and talk with you daily and once more I can rejoice in this glorious Spring weather. I like the eight page CHRISTIAN it grows more daring and free-spoken every month. I like the picture of our house on the first page, and that corner of the healing room on the last page. I am proud of the home of CHRISTIAN and prouder still of Christian's Caretaker and his family. The Circle of, Christians is the grandest thing I know."

These words come from a very new Christian. She was going to die a few months ago and I sent her to a hospital for an operation. The operation was successful and the treatments have brought her into health and happiness. No wonder she thinks the Circle of Christians is the grandest thing on the planet. Spirit tells me that this Circle of Christians will grow and grow until the Silent Word from each and all of us will girdle the earth with Health, Happiness and Prosperity.

## CIRCLE OF CHRISTIANS.

It is not an organization.

It is not a sect, church, cult, party, or any kind of an institution.

It is a growth, vibration or spiritual movement for the unfolding of the individual.

It was a movement of the Spirit of Truth and has been carried forward in spite of carnal mind.

Like Topsy, it "jes' growed!"

There has been something more than brains and money behind CHRISTIAN.

It began without a single penny of money and my brains were below par.

You may have millions of money and employ a staff of the very best writers in this metaphysical movement, and you can't succeed in establishing a magazine. I have seen the thing tried four times since I began the publication of CHRISTIAN.

If the movement lacks Spirit, it will fail in spite of brains and money.

It is time now for us to review our work. The Circle of Christians has grown to a place of power. When the word power is used, I am not talking about personal influence and money. I am speaking of genuine power. It is that force which upholds the worlds and in which the suns are established.

Who are we?

The Christians are a company drawn together by the Spirit of Truth. We have grown into a compact body in the full fellowship of the Spirit. I need not tell you how close we have been to the margin of the precipice called failure. I don't think we were ever close to it, but the appearances were against us. I have had experience in the publication of periodicals since the year 1872. That was before my present partner (my wife) was born. I know what it is to build up a periodical and then see it fall by the wayside. CHRISTIAN has upset all of my former experience.

It was begun when I didn't have enough to eat. I changed it from a monthly to a weekly, and then back to a monthly. Spirit made me do this in the face of my boasted knowledge and practical experience that such a thing would spell suspension. I made a sixteen-page paper and then changed back to eight pages. All this time CHRISTIAN was making money. It was holding the Christians by an invisible law of attraction.

I have said things one year, and contradicted them the next year. Aye, you will bear me out when I say that my "inconsistencies" were often not more than a month apart. You knew that I was growing. There was something behind the movement greater than the individual mind. A mental growth demands plenty of room. Spirit gave us the whole universe for the swing of our mental vision.

When the pound rates of postage were taken from me it was a great blow. Why? Simply because I have been a printer from the time my little face was blackened as a printer's devil. For a quarter of a century pound rates of postage had been the practice. Spirit said that we didn't want it, but I wouldn't risk it. I put up a fight. But the

I AM determined that second-class postage should not be given CHRISTIAN. I was given plenty of room and so left to make my fight. I now see that I was bucking against God. At the present hour CHRISTIAN is an independent publication, while all who enjoy second-class rates are subsidized by the government. Christians will never accept of any subsidy from anybody. It is said from reports carefully made that it costs seven cents a pound to handle second-class mail. Therefore pound rates of postage would be six cents a pound of government subsidy. CHRISTIAN pays its own way.

This leads up to the next point in my report.

The independent life!

There has been much said about the simple life. Christians are not aiming for the simple life. They are seeking the independent life.

Independence in money matters.

I give treatments for business success. You have a right to financial freedom. This is gained by the independent life. Teach your children to support themselves. It does not make any difference if you are a millionaire, teach your children the responsibility of the independent life. Get you a home. No matter if that home is only one room and you own the ground under it. Everything that you put into that home will make it more of a home. Stamp your own individuality in it and on it! It will be *your* house, *your* pictures, *your* little grass plot, *your* flowers—your HOME!

It doesn't take much to enable you to live the independent life. I'm not trying to circumscribe your desires, for Christianity is no pent-up life. You may have millions and be a Christian. The interpretation of Christianity by the religionists is a caricature. Christ promises you "all these things," and you can't have more than the ALL. The Spirit of Truth not only promises the all, but takes the trouble to enumerate; wives, children, houses, lands, the whole kingdom of matter. Be yourself! If you are true to yourself you can handle pennies or millions. It is your own self in the domain of matter, and you can live a very simple life and be independent, or you can multiply your holdings by millions and still be independent.

Cultivate selfness!

In the items you will find me using some strong terms against self-sacrifice. I have demanded the cultivation of selfishness, but will use another word and call it selfness. The most abominable teaching that has ever been taught to humanity is that of self-sacrifice. They have sounded the depths of human misery by telling us to offer ourselves as a sacrifice on the altar of meanness. I use the word meanness deliberately. The meanest people in the world are those who drink the life blood of others. To educate a child by coddling and serving it is to educate it in meanness. All the manly virtues cry out against imposing upon others. The vile thought came from the teaching that God gave his son as a sacrifice. They tell us that poor Jesus came into this world and

gave up glory and honor that he might save us. He has been held before us crowned with thorns and dripping with blood, and the tale of woe has been so fixed in our minds that we think it is true. Let us look at one little statement:

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Now that is exactly the motive that makes us all hustle. The joy that is set before us! The joy of making money and being independent. The joy of having a home, a wife, children, lands, and to move among our fellow beings as an independent individual. In other words, to be set down at the right hand of the throne of God. It is to escape being paupers. No one likes to be cared for by others unless he lacks spirit. This does not mean that men of spirit do not take joy in caring for others. All invalids who are unable to care for themselves should be cared for by the public. This care should be given without the brand of pauperism. It should be given in a way to make those for whom we care feel like they were at home. Heretofore our almsgiving has been with the sounding of a trumpet. When we come into the fullness of the independent life, there will be no invalids.

I must not leave this theme until you have it impressed upon your minds that to sacrifice yourself is to ruin your power for good. If you wear your physical and mental self to a frazzle in caring for others, what have you left? Build up your kingdom and then you will have power to radiate from your own center. This is the only way that you can do it. The way of the truth is absolutely the only way. There is no middle ground and no by-paths. Any other way is failure. You have sacrificed yourself, and when it is too late you look around you and see that your life has been a failure. Now, there is a littleness and narrowness called selfishness which all true Christians will avoid. I am not talking to mean people. In the fullness of your own wide horizon, you are daily helping others. But blessed and holy is the man and woman who help others to help themselves

Independence in mental matters!

This is just as important as independence in money matters. It is amusing to see how mental slavery still holds to people who have made a declaration of independence. You don't have to believe this or that teaching. May CHRISTIAN caused a general awakening. I would have written that whole number whether I believed it or not, just to see you people assert yourselves. It did me good to see that you were reading with your own minds. I believe that what I said was true. But I don't have to believe it, and neither do you. I look back through the years at the controversy we had over the devil and everlasting punishment. It caused the bitterest controversy, and everybody took sides one way or the other. There were hellians and anti-hellians. I have pounded the Bible on the side of the hellians. I still believe in

but I think the hottest part of it is in mental bondage. What does it amount whether we are reincarnated or not? What does it matter whether we go to hell or heaven? Is your belief going to change acts? Let us Christians stand up and face facts. If you are going to die, do it gracefully. The mental attitude of absolute indifference is a rest to the soul. If my wife was taking down this article, I would use all of my pet phrases. It begins: don't care — attitude of mind. That woman has led me to make more dashes than any individual with whom I have ever been acquainted. The point is for you to leave your mental house ready for a cleaning at any time. The idea of cumbering the mind with the cobwebs of past or present theories is bondage.

When they ask you what the Christians believe, tell them that you don't know to-day. You would know yesterday, but have forgotten. Tomorrow is not here, therefore you will have to wait to find out just what they are believing to-morrow. It is the independence of the mind. You have seen the bad effects of superstitioned beliefs. It has caused wars and untold persecutions of individuals. The blood-battlefields have been fought over opinions and beliefs. Many times, after the war, we have found out neither side were right. Both sides had a wrong belief. Every man who came along in the days gone by with a new thought had to keep it to himself or be hanged. Even in this boasted hour of civilization new thoughts have a hard time getting themselves established as respectable. There is always a smart set in the material world who rule by the conning of forgotten creeds. The man who changes his mind is called unbalanced, wishwashy. The one who believes what his father, grandfather, great-grandfather believed, because it is respectable, is called safe and sane. The man who is really safe and sane is the one who leaves his mind free from any formulated faith. The very word, faith, as used in the New Testament, means consciousness. It is your own consciousness. It is a life force within yourself, and not something that is put in a print. This life force within you is forever unfolding, and so you can't drive a stake down and say: Thus far have I gone, and I will go no further. The water of life is a well-spring, within you, which is forever springing up into Everlasting Life. For this very reason you must keep yourself free from the institutions of carnal mind. Christianity is a growth within your own soul. Leave your soul free to grow. I don't want you to accept this as mere advice. It is easy to say these things. The world is full of advice. Children and fools are filled with it.

Independence in happiness!

Nearly all of our misery comes from minding other people's business. A man wrote in here the other day, telling me what a bad man his brother was, and how he was bearing his brother's burdens. I told him that it was none of his business. The brother was a grown man, and could take care of himself. If you miss the paradox, you miss the truth.

All of this soul-saving rot of religion is an impertinence. I spent one-fifth of a century sticking my nose into other people's souls. I was nosing around to see who were sinners and who were saints. I had been ordained by the Institution to meddle in other people's affairs. I wore the uniform and bore the title of a busybody. I was called a clergyman. But in the light of Science I know that my business was to meddle. The principle holds good in all the affairs of life. Mind your own business. The soul resents meddling. There isn't anything that the soul will so rise against as dictation from another soul. I verily believe that all of our efforts at reform have made matters worse. When I give treatments for drunkards, for instance, I tell the relatives to let the drunkard go to the devil. It is in the interests of the individual. You will have to turn him loose and let him go. Happiness must be independent. You must work it out for yourself. If you are going to make yourself miserable over the misery of others, you will always be miserable. Let the millennium come in your own mind. You are not to look after others except by setting them the example. "Let your light shine," is the way it reads. If you keep up your racket of trying to furnish the oil for other lamps, you will be where Moses was when the light went out. You will be in the dark. I do not give treatments to take away your own individuality. If the word that I speak for you in the Silence does not come into your own mind as a part of your own thinking, it will not do you any good. You must assimilate the treatments and appropriate the power to yourself. Right here let me give you a little advice (it's not cheap), and that is, never put yourself into the hands of a syndicate of healers. It is nothing more than self-hypnotism. You place yourself on the mental operating table. A half dozen men and women get around your mind and operate upon it. It is the law of suggestion. It is precisely the same law that is used by the patent medicine advertisements. The Spirit of Truth sends you vibrations, which you are to translate into your own language. You are a center of attraction yourself. The Circle of Christians means that each Christian is the center of a circle. Don't try to draw any other person into your center. You are to radiate from that center a light, a power, for yourself. Each Christian bears his own torch in this procession.

It is a fellowship!

The Spirit of Truth is giving us treatments for Health, Happiness and Prosperity. I say giving us treatments, for I am a patient of the Spirit. The strong are to bear the burdens of the weak. This is the only kind of burden bearing. It is said in plain words that every man must bear his own burden. But the other side of the paradox says that we are to bear each other's burdens. *It is a fellowship.* We are drawn together and made strong in the strength of the Spirit. How do you bear the burdens of the weak? By turning their weakness into strength. If you take a child and refuse to let it put its feet on the ground, you are not

bearing its burdens. You are carrying it. I will not bear you, but I will help you with your burdens. In this connection I can't resist telling a baby story. The other day the Baby and her mother were walking to the grandmother's house. Baby got tired and wanted to be carried. Her mother told her that she could not carry her and the umbrella, her spade and a lot of other toys that they had between them. The Baby very gravely remarked: "I will carry the umbrella and the spade and the basket if you will carry me."

That is exactly the idea that some people have of bearing one another's burdens. You pick up your child, your brother, your sister, your friend, and carry them, thinking that you are bearing their burdens. You put the child down and teach it how to walk. If you kept its feet off the ground and refused to let it get the bumps and falls of experience, you would paralyze its limbs. The same paralyzing process is carried on by people who are sacrificing themselves for others. Cultivate the manly courage to hustle for yourself. Then when you come along and find a fellow that is a little weak-kneed, you can give him a lift. You may carry his umbrella part of the way, or even take his whole burden until he regains his strength. That is exactly what we are here for, my beloved Christians. You would be astonished at the growth of this movement even in the past few months. There are enough people who have taken twelve shares in the stock of CHRISTIAN to make it absolutely independent. What are they doing? They are sowing the seed of the kingdom! They put a person on the paid list. And that individual becomes a Christian. You get the daily treatments free of charge, and yet it is not at the expense of an individual. The Circle of Christians is paying its own way by circulating CHRISTIAN. Don't you see the joy that is set before us?

Where does the principle lead?

It leads to absolute Independence. I have no words to express the fullness of this freedom. It begins in the individual and it abides in the individual. It is a company of strong and mighty individuals. Mental freedom, physical freedom, financial freedom! Your mind takes in the horizon of being. It is not confined to this planet, or to any location in the immensity of space. The soul is geographically free. In order to reach this kind of freedom, there must be physical perfection. This is as certain to follow mental freedom as that the truth brings forth its own. Expansion of the intellect! Our minds have been confined to the history of this little planet.

Climb higher!

\*\*\* "Ted was off his crutches before I received your reply. Think it was instantaneous healing. His father went to see him yesterday and says his knee seems to be all right."

How's that for healing a ball player? I quote from a letter written the last of May. Another letter written the first week in June tells me that Ted played with his team all right and they came out victorious.

# CIRCLE *of* CHRISTIANS

"Every fellow for himself and the devil take the hindmost"

Christians are a peculiar people.

They are not a sect, church, institution or any kind of an organization.

You can't have an organization without officers.

Christians have eliminated officialdom from their association.

Christianity is the kingdom of Spirit in the individual.

Spirit in the individual is seeking for Health, Happiness and Prosperity.

I AM speaking the daily Word for the healing of your mind and body.

Personal treatments are given for physical, mental and financial freedom.

It is the fellowship of the Spirit.

You are not supporting any cause, advocating any kind of creed or formulating a faith.

You are seeking for the betterment of yourself.

The homely motto at the top of this page tells the tale.

The terms are twelve dollars a year.

You can pay by the month, three months, half year or whole year as it suits your own convenience.

Each dollar entitles you to one yearly subscription to CHRISTIAN and one month of daily treatments.

You may put a name on the paid list for each dollar, or credit the free list.

If you prefer it, you can have two copies of my book for each dollar.

Subscriptions are one dollar a year, and the book retails at fifty cents.

The circulation of CHRISTIAN supports the Circle of Christians.

I make no promises.

I speak the Word and leave results to the Spirit.

## T. J. SHELTON

1657 CLARKSON STREET, DENVER, COLORADO