



# Christian

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Regeneration of the Body by the Resurrection of the Mind.

## ITEMS AND IDEAS.

\*\*\* In changing your address, always give both the old and the new.

\*\*\* That picture on the first page of last CHRISTIAN was an abomination!

\*\*\* The photograph was all right, but the cut was a miserable failure, in every respect.

\*\*\* They blackened my eyebrows. They did the same thing in the picture in "I AM Sermons." My eyebrows are very light, and my hair is just the color of the suit I had on in the photograph.

\*\*\* It seems that I can't get a good cut of myself or my wife. The first one of her made her look like a prim old maid. The second, with her and the baby last year, made her look like a little, short, fat Jewess. All who have called here, after seeing the picture, were surprised at seeing such a different looking woman.

\*\*\* As all of you people seem to want to see us, we will try it once more when we get to New York this winter. There we will have a good photograph and a splendid cut made, so that you can see us as we are. The responses have been so cheerful that I know we will not bore you by giving a good likeness of ourselves. Can't furnish photographs; they are too expensive.

\*\*\* I give treatments for all kinds of sickness of body and mind. My terms are from one to ten dollars per month, according to the financial condition of the applicant. You are to be the judge as to the class in which you belong, ranging all the way from one to ten dollars. For each dollar sent, I give my two books, or a yearly subscription to the CHRISTIAN. This means dollar for dollar in material things, and thirty days of treatment. I make no promises, except that I will faithfully give the treatments.

\*\*\* My two books, "I AM Sermons" and "The Law of Vibration," are cloth bound, and retail at fifty cents each. You can have the books without treatments, by sending a dollar. But with every dollar sent for treatments, you can have the two books, or a yearly subscription. Mind that I don't give both the books and the subscription for a dollar. You can send your dollar for treatments, and have the credit go to the free list. I have a big list to whom I send CHRISTIAN on trial. My readers who do not send the names of persons for this free list, can let their money apply on it in a general way.

\*\*\* "Enclosed find Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for a year's membership in The Circle of

CHRISTIAN. You may credit it to the free list, and when I get the addresses of those I know would be interested in CHRISTIAN, I will send them to you for that list.

"I AM glad you are speaking the Word, that I may find my Place in the world where everything will work together to give me Love, Joy, Peace and Contentment."

This item explains what I mean by the free list. The crisp new ten dollar bill, which was in this letter from a stenographer, and a hard-working girl, will pay the postage on one thousand free papers. There is no telling how far such an influence will go. Many of the thousands will respond and become working Christians. The girl gets a hundredfold more in the way of financial freedom, and the vibrations of Health and Happiness.

\*\*\* "Regarding your work, my dear Mr. Shelton, while we disagree in many things, as the God of nature intended we should, I must congratulate you on your vigor and logical consistency. Very few writers on your line show so little deviating from the logical sequence of the premise taken."

So writes my friend and neighbor, Dr. Tilden, editor of "A Stuffed Club." I think he is a truthful James in the above statement, for I am a consistent Christian. Christianity is a metaphysical movement of the individual, and for the individual. It was never an organized institution, with headquarters on the earth. It was always a spiritual movement in the individual, with headquarters in the spiritual world. Now, Doctor, if you will publicly take back what you said several months ago, when you wrote Judas as my middle name, you will pour the oil of consolation on the women folks of this family. They were hot! I didn't care a d-dime for what you said, for I rather like Judas. You know the name stands for betrayal, and I never betrayed anybody or anything in all my life. The name "Judas" has no weight with me, for the man, Judas, was a good Christian.

\*\*\* "This question of allowance should have been settled years ago. I could save a good deal from the table, if I could pay for things as I get them instead of running a bill. My husband will trust me to run a bill, but will not trust me with cash."

So writes a good wife. I want to swear at the fools. In my first incarnation I was just such a fool. Now, that I have begun life all over again, the wisdom of the wise is coming to me. We used to have the groceryman come to the back door and pump his orders into the cook. Then "Mamma" came and began taking the orders. Then we shut Mr. Groceryman off entirely. The grocery men use the Sunday papers to advertise bargains to catch the cash trade. My wife reads those ads just as eagerly as the dry goods ad. She takes

the cash and goes to the grocery every Monday morning and lays in the week's supply of staples. We are saving at least one-fourth. Then, my boys, think of the fun the women have in buying things for cash. Debt is the devil. Don't run up any bills with the devil! You can make money by giving the women the cash, instead of letting her run bills. When she has to "charge" everything, she gets the debt vibration. Let her have her own money, anyway. It is just as broad as it is long, except that it is a little broader than it is long. You will have to pay the bills, anyway, so why not give her the dough and be done with it? I go shopping with her once in awhile, just to see how sharply she strikes a bargain. Some men are so blamed mean that they are afraid that a woman will have a few cents left over after doing her marketing. I bet this item will be marked with a big red pencil and stuck under the noses of more men than you can count in a minute!

\*\*\* A good Christian writes from California (I am afraid to give his town, for fear his mother-in-law will see the paper):

"I have a friend that I want you to treat and send him CHRISTIAN for the enclosed dollar. He says he will check up on cigarettes. He has a wife, two children, and a mother-in-law. The mother-in-law is not such a one as you describe. I am sure he would like to swap with you. I also have one, and she is a very Dear. You and I are the favored ones in this regard."

No man can swap mothers-in-law with me. You can't make a dicker with me in that line. I had two stepmothers, and one of them was a Holy Terror. But my mother-in-law is an ideal woman. She has been in this house for three years, and has never given me one bit of advice. She never scolds me over my wife's shoulder. She goes on about her affairs so quietly that you would hardly know she was in the house.

\*\*\* George Edwin Burnell, in a private letter, says, speaking for himself and wife:

"We realize that you are solid tonic. There are thousands now praying for what CHRISTIAN has, and these prayers we may assert answers for, and thus fill out the aching blanks of their lives."

"It is our power to thus demonstrate divinity, for why else has it dawned upon us?"

"Thousands who lack more than sub-conscious inkling of what CHRISTIAN holds in store for them may be intelligenced of the inheritance of power which is up the sleeve of this day to be divulged through CHRISTIAN. All this we see—Mrs. Burnell and I; and you two."

"The device across which this value must come is sure to come from your mind teeming with enterprise; if it hurts to get it through you, all right! You are good at toughness—this is obvious—so also is your spiritedness of mind."

\*\*\* In doing our work alone, we find telepathy coming into use every day. Mrs. Shelton is so in tune with my people that she anticipates their letters. She can go to a package of letters, and pick out persons who have written. She hears their names and feels their vibration many days before they write. It has become so common that we make no comment.

\*\*\* "When you treat me this month, can I ask for freedom from debt?"

You certainly can, for debt is the devil, and I am trying to save you from the devil. Don't you see how all of these dams begin with a D—? Debt, devil, disease, death, dishonor, disgrace, damnation! Sow Peas. Plenty, peace, prosperity, pleasure, plumpness, praise! I treat you, my beloved, for physical and financial freedom.

\*\*\* "You are doing a lot of good, and I love you for it. This vibration business ought to and does work both ways. God bless you—which means that I wish better things to happen to you than I know how to bring about."

Such is the greeting from a business man in St. Paul, Minn. You bet this vibration business works both ways. The good treatments that I receive are part of the power which goes out from this center. This wife of mine who sits here and writes can tell the vibration of a mail before it is opened. You have no idea of the difference there is in the vibration of different kinds of people. You would not think it, but we often get what we call a deadhead mail. A whole batch of letters in which there is nothing for us in the way of money or blessings. And such people generally want the whole earth and a potato patch on the moon!

\*\*\* "Do you ever give free or charity treatments to worthy persons who are not able to pay?"

All my treatments are virtually free, so far as money value is concerned. I give dollar for dollar in material things. I wouldn't take anybody as a charity patient. If I had to treat any one of that kind, I would take a dollar out of the drawer and pay myself with it. The worst vibration that can be thrown around a person is that of charity. It is my business to speak the word of Freedom and I will not do anything that will have a tendency to pauperize. Besides, you can't make a friend with that kind of work. They would be the very first persons to turn against you, revile you, and do everything in their power to injure you. *The Philistine* is right when he says: "Our enemies are the people we have benefited." The law of the Spirit is that you are to give and receive, and you can't deviate from this law of truth without suffering the consequences.

\*\*\* How did fear creep into the world? While in the mountains, Baby Blanche taught two chipmunks to come and eat out of her hands. When her grandmother wrote about it, I thought she was jollying us. Then I went up there and saw it with my own eyes. If one of us would go out there, they would dart under the rocks. But the baby would sit down and hold her little hands just high enough to make them get on their hind feet and stretch their

fore paws high enough to get the food. I told my German barber about it. He explained it all in a few words: "Dot baby und der chipmunks vas partners." That is the eternal and everlasting truth. The babe and the chipmunks were partners. They had perfect trust in each other. She was not going to hurt the little squirrels, and they had no thought of biting her.

\*\*\* The Circle of Christians is the League of Life. This came to me the other day with the force of inspiration. A good Christian woman, who has been with me from the beginning of this work, closed her letter with these words:

"Don't drop me from the Circle of Christians. Even if I should die, don't you take my name off the list. I shall stick to you beyond death. Perhaps I could be a big help to you from the other side."

Her body was so frail and delicate that she could not get it out of her mind and so several months ago she passed into the Sunlight. I will not enter into a discussion of the phenomena of spiritual intercourse. But my wife and I have positive proof, to our own minds, that this woman has sent telepathic messages to us from the other side. Remember that neither of us had ever seen her face. All we knew of her was through her writing and her vibrations. I felt her presence in the Healing Room, but for at least a month did not mention it to Mrs. Shelton. But one day she came into the Healing Room and said: "Do you know I can't keep Laura F. out of my mind? I have been expecting a letter from her." Then I told her what I had heard and felt in the Silence. This confirmed us in the resolution to never erase a name from the Circle of Christians, unless by order from the owner of the name.

\*\*\* Can you carry a message to Garcia? There are so many people in the world who do not want to do anything after they get a chance to do it. Here is a letter:

"It just seems as if I could not stand it another minute. Instead of good riddance to store life, I am in it deeper than ever. The young lady who had charge of the department left Saturday night, and the whole thing falls on me. And I don't want charge at any price, so what am I to do? Two others left very recently to be married, so here I am with a big department and two green hands. They don't know the stock, and so it's 'Miss C., where is this, and where do you keep that?' and the floor-walker yelling, 'Forward, Miss C.,' until I feel like going home. God knows if I ever get out of this I will be thankful every minute of my life."

In my reply I blew the young lady sky high. I told her that she didn't have sense enough to pound sand into a rat-hole. Instead of standing up to her work as a queen in her domain, she was whining and whimpering like a booby. I said many more mean things to her in the Silence, and also in my letter. I told her that she could not carry a message to Garcia, even when the message was put right into her hands. In two weeks it took. Here is her answer:

"I want to tell you how grand everything has gone for me in the department this week. It is just as easy! I don't feel that terrible responsibility at all. Everything

goes along like clockwork. All my orders are out, and the two girls are so good. The floor-walker and manager are considerate, and even said they were pleased at the way I had done; said that I kept my head, and managed the rush of customers like a little captain. I had to smile, because I know it was dear Mr. Shelton's treatments that had straightened me out and brought me to my senses. And I am so thankful! The Joy of this glimpse of Truth is great, and I will stay with you forever, for I certainly am coming to my real self."

Hurrah for my little Captain! You don't have to pound sand into a rat-hole!

\*\*\* You may talk about the law of vibrations not having any effect. But if you were in this Healing Room you would know to a dead certainty. Just as soon as we said to all of you to send money in any old way which suited your convenience and your feelings, there was a change in the vibration. For several weeks there has been a cramped vibration of fear and restraint. Just as soon as you got August CHRISTIAN, money began coming in here in silver, greenbacks, money orders, checks, and it all seemed to be wrapped around with a vibration of safety and security.

\*\*\* Elbert Hubbard says that two hundred and seven chipmunk magazines have been started in imitation of *The Philistine*. Yes, and some of them are groundhogs, while *The Philistine* itself comes very nearly being a porcupine.

\*\*\* I am asked about the milk and marfa advocated by the *New Thought* magazine. Milk is certainly not a new thought, and the milk diet, except for babes, has been exploded long ago. Marfa is said to be an Arkansas root, but it sounds very much like a Sydney Flower toot.

\*\*\* Baby Blanche can settle all problems in her own mind. Up in the mountains she saw a man milking a cow. After watching the operation for a while, she ran back to the cabin and told us she knew how they got the milk. "Dey dest pulled the cow's corks and de milk tomes."

\*\*\* The editor of *Now* being called down on account of bad grammar, exclaims: "I AM grammar!" Now, that is going a little too far. The idea of ascribing the illiteracy of Henry Harrison Brown to the Almighty!

\*\*\* "May I call you Shelton? I always feel like using that name without an affix or prefix."

Certainly, my dear, it would be a great honor. It is a compliment to me that nearly all of my correspondents want to call me Shelton. When a man gets to be Somebody, when he really arrives, we drop all titles, and say Lincoln, Grant, Napoleon, Emerson, Shelton, and God!

\*\*\* Certainly you people do not think I have anything to do with the circular letter sent out from this city and signed by my former stenographer. She writes "formerly of CHRISTIAN," but this she did of her own accord, thinking it would help her employer. It was a mistake, for nobody on this earth can say "formerly of CHRISTIAN." I AM CHRISTIAN! Those who write for me or work for me are not CHRISTIAN. I even ex-

clude all advertisements from the columns of CHRISTIAN, so that I will not endorse any methods or movements of any people. CHRISTIAN has no connection with anybody or anything, and is not trying to sell any particular brand of cold cream or skin food.

\*\*\* George Edwin Burnell will teach a Winter School of Metaphysics, beginning in November. For particulars you may address him at The Home of Truth, 1327 Georgia street, Los Angeles, Cal. He has made a big success of his Summer School, and is now open for classes in other cities.

\*\*\* Right Reverend Colonel Bishop Oliver C. Sabin, of *The Washington News Letter* and The Reformed Evangelical Christian Science Church, says that he does not like New Thought, and that his Church is founded on the old thought. Yes, my beloved, and that old thought on which your church is founded is a lie. All churches are founded on lies. Tolstoi said: "The concept of the Church is the wickedest thing in the world." This is true. Jesus Christ never organized a church and never authorized anyone else to do so. His chief work was in pulling down a church. The disciples of Jesus and the early Christians were not organized into churches. There is not a word in the New Testament that bears the idea of an official in an institution. Sabin ought to know that the Greek word for "bishop" has no more to do with officialdom than the words blacksmith, tailor, etc., in our language. Christians had no bishops, priests, or other officers. The words which have been made to serve as titles had to do with certain kinds of work, and these men were called servants. The blight of the earth came through the church as an institution.

\*\*\* There is just a little bit of mixture in the New Thought Federation. But this is no reason why Sabin should shy at it. In the list of "honorary vice-presidents" I find George Edwin Burnell, the Christian; J. Stitt Wilson, the Socialist; S. A. Weltmer, the Magnetist; W. C. Gibbon, the Heathen; Charles Fillmore, the Theosophist; W. P. Phelon, the Spiritualist; Elizabeth Towne, the Individualist; and so on and so forth. It looks like it was going to be a Populist convention.

\*\*\* It is easy to make a man, nowadays, by giving him a title. Two or three years ago a negro came to my front porch and had a talk with me. He had clear cut features, and wavy hair, so I told him he ought to pose as an Oriental. In jest, I said, "get some high-sounding name, and you will be all right." The first thing I knew he was in the New Thought convention in Chicago, calling himself Dr. Alhambra, or something of that kind, and everybody went wild over him. He is a good fellow, for all that I know, and I gave him a good send-off by suggesting an Oriental name. I looked carefully over the printed list of "honorary vice-presidents" for the New Thought Federation, but was disappointed in not finding Dr. Alhambra's name. I am not sure that Alhambra was the name, but it is the only thing I can think of at present. It might have been the Alamo.

\*\*\* *The Higher Thought*, of Chicago and Kalamazoo, is still struggling with the reorganization of the New Thought forces. It reminds me of the efforts of the reorganizers of the Democratic party. Our good friends say, "The practical aspect that the reorganization of affairs will take in Chicago under the administration of the Spirit of Truth, can not be exactly told. But the Violation of Love will cease. And Love will reorganize life and bestow its blessings, because Love is set free." Yes, yes, but Love never organizes or reorganizes, but is the same Yesterday, To-day, and Forever! It never has any presidents or honorary vice-presidents. Love has a habit of kicking up its heels in absolute freedom. Why don't you let the people alone? Why do you want to organize? What has been accomplished by organization? Nothing on earth but strife. Everyone thinks that he can organize without strife. His own particular brand will work all right. But it will not. This same Chicago is now having a battle between the packing trust and the labor trust. It is force against force. Organization against organization. Both are wrong. The Kingdom of Truth and Peace is in the individual.

\*\*\* This is the rot that is going the rounds as New Thought. Under the heading "Treatment for Power and Vitality," Unity says:

"Place your right hand on the throat and affirm, 'I am poised in the power, mastery and supreme ability of the Spirit; I am not afraid of anybody or anything; I am not anxious or worried about anybody or anything; I am a master of the situation.'"

"Repeat this with great deliberation at least one dozen times, then place your hand on the pit of the stomach and say:

"I am vitalized with the vitality of the Spirit. The substance of this body is not material, but spiritual, and that substance now goes to every part, vivifying, strengthening and building this body in the image and likeness of Christ."

Why put your hand on the pit of your stomach? Why not suck your thumb? I saw a healthy looking fellow, on the street cars the other day, sucking his thumb. But, seriously, in giving a treatment for power, why not let Power give the treatment? Why should weakness stand with its finger on the pit of its stomach, repeating over a lot of words? There never was a man on this earth, or in the heavens, or anywhere else, who got power by such an idiotic process. I have been in the healing business for more than ten years, and have seen hundreds and thousands of people healed. I never repeat any form of words, and never of my own self give treatment. It is the Spirit who gives the treatments, and the Spirit does not talk! Spirit vibrates. It is not words, but the Word! The same senseless treatments were given in the time of Jesus, and he cautioned his disciples against all such healers. "Use not vain repetitions as the heathen do, for they think they shall be heard for their much speaking." The New Thought is becoming heathenish.

\*\*\* "Drink no water. Quench thy thirst by bathing, previous to the meal, your upper arms, wrists and hands. If thirsty after a meal dip thy finger into the running water of the stream beside you and lick the finger

gently as the breezes touch thy lips."—*The Mazdaznan*.

The above shows some more tommyrot. There never was a time in the world's history when it was so surfeited with advice. Men who make a living by giving advice must shoot off their mouths, no matter whether they know what they are talking, about or not. The drinking of water is just as natural as the breathing of air. My wife has a highly sensitized body. It is an instrument susceptible to every vibration of the Spirit. She keeps her perfect poise and good health by the free use of water inside and out. The internal bath is just as essential to health as the external. She has been scolded about drinking water all of her life. Still the clear complexion and brightness of vision come from the constant drinking of pure water, not by licking her finger!

\*\*\* Why is it that anonymous letters are always asinine in conception and vindictive in execution? A man writes in New York, and signs himself "A Master Mason." No address is given and no clue to the identity of the writer. He violates every obligation of a Master Mason by calling me names and threatening me with prosecution. All this because I said, in last CHRISTIAN, that there was not a single secret in Masonry. His wife has been laughing at him. How often have you seen the little bullet headed man go home to a bright and intelligent wife, blinking his eyes over the wonderful secrets he is holding from her! Poor little stupid stunts, trying to keep a secret from the woman, when the Woman is the secret. This anonymous ass says that I ought to be expelled from the Masonic Fraternity. If it is a secret, and I have the secret, what good would it do to be expelled? Rest your soul in peace, my friend, for one of my golden rules is, never to go to any place where my wife can not go. This rule would keep more men decent than the Golden Rule. But, speaking of secrets, let me tell you that there is not a secret in the whole universe. There is ignorance in the universe, but there are no secrets. God could not keep a secret for God is the Light. If there are any secrets in the world, they are not in the keeping of God. If you don't know all the truths of the universe, it is not because they are kept secret from you, but because you haven't sense enough to understand. You are in a wide open universe.

\*\*\* A good Christian in California writes:

"I have just been reading your Idea on the Resurrection. You are all right, and with your assistance, I will grow the same kind of body, a perfect body like unto that of a Son of God. I thought one time I never could believe your teachings, but the way is becoming brighter and brighter. Why! bless your sweet heart, I can at times see my own Inner Divine Self, and I feel as light as a feather and as joyful as can be. What is this and what does it mean?"

This man is full of business, and yet finds time for the construction of the New Body. It is a resurrection of the mind. Let the Christians go right on with their work. It is really a benefit for them to have something to do to keep the mortal mind busy with affairs. At the same time let the

Spirit within you work out your own redemption. You must learn how to follow the Spirit by listening to instruction in the every day affairs of life. For instance: the day for my wife to leave Denver for the World's Fair was fixed five months before she started. There have been several chances for her to leave on trains that were wrecked. She left on the right train and at the right time. Let Spirit tell you in a gentle way all about what you call the common affairs of life.

#### THE INSANITY OF INSPIRATION.

Genius is akin to madness.

Inspiration and insanity often form a merger where it is hard to distinguish the one from the other. Spirit has a hard time in making mortal mind understand. Last month we had a horrible wreck on the railroad near Pueblo. Here is an account of how the Spirit saved one man's life. I quote from the *Denver Republican*.

"Friends in Denver of Dr. E. C. Stimmel, a prominent Pueblo dentist, were relieved of much anxiety regarding his safety when he returned to Denver last night. Dr. Stimmel was in Denver Sunday and left on the ill-fated train en route for his home, but at Colorado Springs he had a strange presentiment that prompted him to change his plans and remain there over night.

"It was a most singular circumstance that caused me to stop, and it's one of the things that I am unable to explain," he said.

"In the first place, I had only bought a ticket as far as the Springs, for it was my intention to stop there and see a friend, but on the train I learned from others that the man I expected to see had gone out of the city. Then I decided to go on through to Pueblo.

"But, just before reaching the Springs, a peculiar feeling took possession of me. Strange thoughts entered my mind, and it seemed that I was trying to recall certain events that had passed away from me. The longer I thought the more anxious I became. I felt that I had forgotten something of importance, but, try as I would, I could not remember. I became worried, and suddenly I found myself pacing back and forth in the aisle of the coach. I attracted the attention of a number of passengers who wondered at my strange actions. It was a most unusual thing to be doing, and with each trip down the aisle others observed my movements, and as I did not cease they all began staring at me. Finally one man yelled, 'Sit down.' I made him nervous, and, although I heard his request, I paid not the slightest attention to him.

"As the train neared Colorado Springs my behavior had not changed. I was still walking and thinking, thinking of something I could not remember. By this time I had worked myself into a state of excitement. When the train pulled up near the station I looked out of the window and I wondered if it was something in the Springs that needed my attention. I could think of nothing, but an inexplicable something seemed to be urging me to get off. I did not know why, but instinctively I left the coach. I was wandering at random more than anything else. I stepped down, crossed the platform and thoughtlessly walked into the depot. There I sat and everything seemed a blank. Then I thought I better continue to Pueblo, and started out to again board the train. I reached the track, but it had already departed. I spoke to one of the depot employees. 'Why, that train left a half hour ago,' he told me, and I then knew I had been sitting in the depot in a sort of

dreamy state all that time. Shortly afterward I heard the news of the terrible accident."

Students often wonder why the Spirit does not take them by the nape of the neck and the seat of the trousers and throw them into the Kingdom of Heaven. Patients want us to heal by instantaneous commandment. I don't say that these things can not be done. But I do say that, in our present state of unfoldment, we are fools and slow of heart. We believe all that is spoken in the prophets, in a sort of perfunctory way. We have no doubt in our mind but that the prophets did once speak on the earth, and great healers performed miracles. But we don't understand it, and this is an age of understanding. It is not the understanding of some Infinite Spirit separated from you, but the Awakening of your own Spirit. The time has come when every man must know the Lord. It is the day of the Individual. The leader and the prophet was for the time of seed sowing. This is the time of the harvest.

Spirit begins on a man just like he did on this doctor. The only way is to make him uneasy. Disturb his mind. Set him crazy. Get him off the train, if possible. Then make him sit down in the sitting room of the station. Keep him sitting there until the train is out of his reach. It is a kind of knocking the senses out of him in order to put sense into him. There were nearly a hundred people on that train who could not be reached in any way. There was no power on earth or in heaven that could reach the engineer or the conductor. This is a strong statement, that I will stand by. If there was any power in heaven that could have communicated with the engineer, and didn't do it, that power is malevolent. I believe that the one Power is all good.

Why couldn't the All Good reach the minds of these men and save the passengers? Because he couldn't. There is one thing in the universe that is inviolable; it is the liberty of the Individual. Mortal mind may encroach upon the freedom of the individual, but Spiritual mind, never. See what a time God had to make this young doctor get off that train. What God? His own God, of course, for there is no other God for him except the God within his own Spirit. It is absolutely for your salvation to come from within you. It is an unfoldment of your own spiritual understanding. The men who were running this train were full of their train work. They were not listening for the Inner Voice. The newspapers call it an "odd stroke of fate" which saved this young doctor. He did not know what it was that was urging him to action. The mortal mind is ready to sneer at the mind of the Spirit. Mortal man thinks that he knows it all. How can Spirit communicate with such a mind? If the Spirit does accomplish anything, you will call it fate, or accident, or anything except an acknowledgment of the Truth.

The very first effort of the Spirit to get me out of the wilderness was by making me miserable. I was pushed by pain. It was the agony, the suffering which Spirit uses to make us hasten out of the Wilderness.

But all kinds of motives are used. There is a Joy set before you to help you bear the cross, but the cross is there all the same. There is an infallible guide within you. He knows all of the past and all of the future. This has been made known to my mind thousands and thousands of times. And yet, when trouble comes, I begin to doubt. There is a Spirit within you which will guide you in the smallest matters of life. You are saved by faith in this Spirit. You can't be saved in any other way. The world is full of all kinds of remedies and schemes and plans for salvation. But there are none of them that will work. There is only one Way, and the I AM of you is that Way. The Kingdom of your Good is within you. The King is never absent from his Kingdom. There is no necessity for you ever to take a train that will be wrecked, a ship that will be lost, or live in a house that will burn. All you have to do is to stop and listen. If you get miserable and walk the floor and rave over the orders of the Spirit, you are being driven to do what you ought to do. Sometimes you have to be driven into the wilderness and out of it. If you wait patiently and listen quietly for the voice of the Spirit, you are being led in the way of Peace.

You must become a fool that you may be wise. Everybody and his sister will make fun of you and call you a crank and all that kind of thing. But, in the end, you will triumph. It is better to be called a crank than to get smashed up in a wreck. You remember the young man who was urged to do an heroic deed by being told of the applause he would get from the public. He told his enthusiastic friends that the multitude might pass by and say, "How natural he looks."

The cross is laid on your shoulders by your friends, your sympathizing family, and your emotional admirers. It is the crossing of the judgment of others which brings the suffering to your mind. In following your Spirit, you must often cross the pathway of your best friends and go contrary to the judgment of your loved ones. But this is getting out of the wilderness of mortality into the land of inspiration.

It is all made very plain in the New Testament, and especially in the teachings of Jesus Christ. When he tells you to leave all and follow Him, you do not care anything for the *all* that you leave. He is caring for you. Spirit knows that there is nothing sacrificed by going in the Way of wisdom. Everything is to be gained by following the Spirit. But you must not trust to bridges and boats and trains and money, instead of the One Way in which there is Hope and Salvation. Bridges may give way, boats may sink, but the Spirit is an ever present help in time of need. The science of the whole matter is, that Spirit and you are one and the same, when you turn to spiritual mind. It is the mortal that stands in the way and divides you from your real self. Hear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. When the pounding and the knocking of Spirit comes, sit down and be still, if only for one minute!



## Christian Healing

By THOMAS J. SHELTON

### IX—REGENERATION.

The resurrection and regeneration are almost one and the same; therefore, I will go on with the subject of our last lesson under this heading.

The main point of the last lesson is in the fact that we are sown a psychical body. Death is the resurrection, but it is not the resurrection to righteousness, unless there has been a mental resurrection. Jesus tells us that God is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for all live unto him. Therefore, if you die to-morrow you will still be alive, but your mental condition will remain unchanged. In the change spoken of by Paul, those who were regenerated before death met all of the righteous ones who had been regenerated after death. Those who met the Lord in the air were all on the same footing, whether from the earth or from the heavens. For this reason, there is only one thing for which you should sorrow, and that is the mental condition of your friends. Death is not a cause for sorrow. You should not fear death. Your psychical body can not die. And when you get rid of the mind of the flesh, your psychical body will be filled with glory.

It is a mental resurrection.

There is such a thing as good and bad thinking. Your happiness or unhappiness depends upon your mind. Health and disease are questions to be settled by the mind. When I speak of righteousness you must not understand me to mean piety in the religious sense of the word. The man who has the mind of a thief may pray and perform all of the rites of religion, and remain a thief. The man who has murder in his heart may go through all the forms of religion and still be a murderer. Regeneration is a renewing of the mind. Let us eat a few words from the New Testament on this subject:

"But when the kindness of God our Saviour, and his love toward man, appeared, not by works done in righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly, through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that, being justified by his grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

This righteousness of which he speaks comes from the cleansing Spirit, and not from any form of religion or any thoughts of morality which you may hold in your mortal mind. It is a scientific fact, and not a ceremonial cleansing.

Here is another statement of the same kind:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is to be the good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

You will notice that the Spirit calls this our spiritual service. And in the margin you will see that the word signifies a service belonging to the reason. It is a spiritual unfoldment and in accordance with reason and the science of being. It is by the renewing of the mind.

Don't think, for a moment, I am moralizing. It is not a question of morals, but of mind. All is good in the mind of the Spirit and all is bad in the mortal mind. There is absolutely no righteousness in the mind of the flesh. The carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be. I am putting before your minds the two mental conditions. The one is harmony and health and goodness and truth, and the other is carnality. There is no use to mince matters. There are works of the flesh and fruits of the Spirit. Regeneration is for the renewing of the mind so that the works of the flesh will be displaced by the fruits of the Spirit.

It is not a question of people being dead or alive. They are always alive. Then it is a question of the kind of people who are alive. There is a scientific reason for light and darkness. There is a truthful reason for the City of God and the abyss. The devil and his angels, which means the mind of the flesh and its works, will be cast into the abyss. You will never get out of that condition until there is a mental resurrection. Your mind can bring you out, but it must be the mind of your Spirit.

When I call your attention to certain parts of the New Testament, keep in your mind the fact that the dead are alive. All the time, remember, that man is a mind in a psychical body. The envelope of flesh does not amount to anything. Now let us read:

"Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I have believed that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, even he that cometh into the world. \* \* \* Jesus saith, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time the body decayeth; for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou believest, thou shouldst see the glory of God? So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou heardest me. And I know that thou hearest me always; but, because of the multitude that standeth around, I said it, that they may believe that thou didst send me. And when he had thus spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. He that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes; and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go."

I make this long quotation so that you will not have to refer to your New Testament while reading this lesson. The point for you to note is that Lazarus was addressed as an individual. It was an appeal to his mind. There was no recognition of his body, and the body itself was ignored. There was no attempt to stop the decay in the stinking body. The Word of command-

ment, or invitation, was given to the man. Lazarus was invited to come forth. He did so. There was no spectacular after effects. Jesus said: "Loose him and let him go." Unbind the grave bands from about his body. Take the napkin from off his face. Go on about your affairs. Jesus said once to the Jews who were accusing him: "The Scripture can not be broken." This is true. There is not a break in the book from Genesis to Revelation. It is an unbroken record of spiritual unfoldment. The quickening spirit transformed the decaying body of Lazarus and his psychical body re-entered. This was a temporary regeneration. Let us look at another resurrection:

"While he yet spake, there came one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying: Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Teacher. But Jesus, hearing it, answered him, Fear not; only believe; and she shall be made whole. And when he came to the house, he suffered not any man to enter in with him, save Peter, and John, and James, and the father and mother of the maiden. And all were weeping, and bewailing her; but he said, Weep not; for she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. But he, taking her by the hand, called, saying, Maiden, arise. And her spirit returned, and she rose up immediately: and he commanded that something be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed: but he charged them to tell no man what had been done."

If mortal mind could do anything like this it would go wild with excitement. Jesus maintains the same unbroken gentleness and grace. Give the girl something to eat, and then tell nobody about what has taken place. Go on about your affairs as if a resurrection was an every-day occurrence. Above all, don't go speaking of such a sacred thing in the ears of the gossips. In the beginning of my unfoldment it was my earnest desire to perform miracles. My mortal mind was anxious to make a display before the people. Now I know that a resurrection is no more of a miracle than a birth. It is as natural as the breath of God. You must remember that these cases are a temporary regeneration. They are given as witnesses to the truth. Let us look at the other case:

"Now, when he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, there was carried out one that was dead, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came nigh and touched the bier: and the bearers stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother."

This is the same kind of work, the gentle and graceful work of the Spirit. These are the only three cases of resurrection found on record in the New Testament. I mean, the only cases of direct healing of the dead by Jesus. Mortal mind would have fixed up at least a hundred cases of the kind. But the mind of the Spirit is only giving us testimony in favor of the coming of a permanent regeneration.

If I had written on regeneration five years ago, it would all have been on sex. Since then, I have learned better. The sex-

ual relationship in regeneration is too sacred to speak of in print. *It belongs to the secret things of the Spirit.* In my preceding lesson, I said that the man and woman hold the relationship of father and mother to each other. This, of course, brings with it the relations of son and daughter; the principle of fatherhood and motherhood, which is the likeness of God, is made perpetual. All the desires of the soul are satisfied. All of the love-principle is made manifest in the father and mother who are son and daughter to each other. It is a most wonderful unfoldment of *Elohim*, Universal Being.

All of this work of healing and the resurrection in the New Testament is temporary, but there is a permanent condition of humanity called the Regeneration. Let us read:

"Then answered Peter and said unto him, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee; what, then, shall we have? And Jesus said unto them, Verily, I say unto you, that ye who followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit on the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath left houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or children, or lands for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit eternal life."

This is a permanent condition. It is the twain in one flesh. Jesus says that these men and women are equal to the angels of God. The man looks into the eyes of his wife and knows that she is also his mother and daughter. The woman looks into the eyes of her husband and knows he is also her son and father. There are no births and deaths. There are no children and no unfoldment from immaturity to maturity. It is a state of perfection. It is perpetual regeneration of the bodies of the twain in the Truth. It is the same principle that permeates the whole universe. It is the vibration which causes the morning stars to sing together, and all the sons of God to shout for joy. They are forever shouting for the Joy of Living. If life was founded on any other principle it would not be life. The unfoldment is a process of pain and sickness and sorrow; this seems to be a necessary part of our education. In regeneration, all things are made new, but they are not made permanent in the sense that there is no development. This would mean stagnation. It is a perpetual regeneration. An everlasting begetting and bringing forth. The supply and the demand are exchanged in the joy of living. Every morning is new, and every pulsation is vibrant with new life. There are continual surprises in joy. It is ecstatic bliss. The bliss of the purified, the bliss of the free. The twain are not confined to any place, but are free to go and come in all the domain of Spirit. They are not looking backward to anything that has been, or forward to anything that is to be.

The people of God have found rest. It is not a ghost life. We are to be regenerated as men and women. The eternal pairs are tangible human beings. There is to be a hundredfold more of everything in a ma-

terial way. A hundredfold more of fatherhood and motherhood. A hundredfold more of sonship. Don't forget the houses and the lands. Our houses are to be a hundred times better than the most costly mansion of the millionaire. Our present dwellings will seem crude compared to the houses in which we will live in the Regeneration. Everything will be of the highest and most perfect architecture. The regenerated mind will invent more beautiful furniture. The lands will be cultivated in such a way that fruits and flowers will be perfect. Music and art, and everything which makes life elegant, will reach perfection. There is to be no more poverty. No ugliness. Pain and sorrow and sickness will be things of the past. "The former things have passed away, and behold, I make all things new." It is beyond the comprehension of mortal mind to know the things that will come to us through regeneration.

Christian Science has set the pace for peace and plenty. Every man and woman who comes into the truth will keep up this pace. Christians are to inherit the earth. It will not remain this little old dirt-dauber's nest, either. While you think that we ought to be poor and humble, just remember that the streets of the City of God are paved with gold. Its walls are jasper. The gates are pearls. There is nothing shoddy or shelf-worn about God. This is the reason why the Spirit gives treatments for health, happiness and prosperity. The old idea that man is a worm of the dust is passing away. He is a God. His wife is a Goddess. The bodies of the twain make the temple of the Living God. You say that you have heard all this before? Yes, but it was in the sweet bye and bye that you were to possess it. I am telling you the practical and personal is right here and now. It is the hour and time of the regeneration. The mind of man must keep pace with the advancement of knowledge.

The unfolding mind is not content to go on perpetuating disease and death. If there is nothing higher in sex than mortality, then I want to wipe it out of my mind the same as I did whisky. If there is nothing more in these Scriptures than mere talk, then let us set fire to this world and see it burn. I know this system of truth in the New Testament is practical. I know that the higher vibrations of life are ready to be realized. I have come up from drunkenness and poverty and uncleanness to sobriety, and peace, and plenty. These changes in my mind were made by She Whom My Soul Loves. And this is only the beginning. I have no idea of stopping here and taking up the humdrum life of the mortal. I have set the woman of the Wilderness free, and this means freedom in its fullness. It means freedom from disease, death, and the devil. It means that the great red dragon is slain. The symbol at the head of CHRISTIAN is yet to be a fact. Day by day this unfoldment into regeneration is making life worth the living. How did it all come about? By changing the works of the flesh for the fruits of the Spirit. When we look forward, it seems that our progress is very slow.

But a look backward, even five years, shows me that I have been making rapid steps toward the kingdom of heaven.

Here is a fragment from one of the short letters of Paul:

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

This little hint gives us an idea of the kind of body in which we live in regeneration. There are only fragments in writing, for the Spirit teaches direct. The written Word has been a hindrance to the progress of the soul. Jesus didn't promise to write a book. He said the Spirit of Truth would guide us in the world of truth. There is a vast difference between throwing a book at our heads and filling us full of the Spirit. He told the Jews that they had made void the law and the prophets by their tradition. The preachers of the present day have made void the gospel by confining it to a book. In the regeneration every man will know the truth, because he is the truth.

The new body is to be like unto the glorious body of Jesus. I have given you some hints as to the kind of body Jesus had after the resurrection. Even before his crucifixion, the psychical body was transfigured in the presence of his disciples. Moses and Elijah, from the spirit-world, came and talked with this man on the earth. After his resurrection he came and went at will. He ascended from the earth in the presence of his disciples, and was received out of their sight into the clouds. This is the kind of body we are to have in the regeneration. It is electric, it is immortal, it is incorruptible.

It is pretty hard for the mind to grasp the idea of such a body. Yet we are in that kind of body now, else we could not go anywhere and everywhere in our dreams. This psychical body is so constituted that we can leave the envelope of flesh and go on journeys to distant lands. I have experienced this in such a way that I was conscious of all my environment. I walked streets and entered into houses. I noted the people in the houses and even looked at the pictures on the walls. I knew that I was invisible to these people. I knew that I had left my envelope of flesh on the bed. You remember my account of three visits to the sun. It sounded so much like a pipe dream that I have not felt like saying anything more about it. However, my experience was just as tangible in my mind as any experience I have ever had in the body of flesh. These dream visits are but prophecies of what is to be in the Regeneration. The inbreathing of the Spirit will give buoyancy and lightness to the regenerated body. Material science is preparing the way for regeneration. Men are getting at the finer substances and discovering new worlds in light. Let the Christians get ready for their crown.

Behold, the Bridegroom cometh! Get your wedding garments ready!

## Christian Healing

By GEORGE EDWIN BURNELL

### IX—SPIRIT AND HEALTH.

So much goes on in the world and in mind to crush the spirit out of folks. Kant said that "astronomy annihilates my significance." Emerson said that of every two minds that meet, one is subdued. This conspiracy on the part of mind and matter to reduce the spirit of us all is destroyed by intelligence.

The cowardice which men feel in the presence of nature and her brawny forms and exercises has been made virtuous under the guise of the appreciation of sublimity and grandeur; likewise the respect and veneration which the race contributes to certain of its own flesh, as well as to the mythical gods, is sanctioned even unto human and divine worship, until hardly a man or woman of spirit remains to keep open the great path of freedom and enlightenment.

The invention of practices and ideals which tend towards and foster veneration, reverence, worship and other sympathetic forms of fear have for their aim the reduction of the spirit of the human race; and in the interest of those who wish to domineer in the role of religion or civilization or other phases of artificial authority; the grand and announced value of all these subtractions from the spirit of humanity is to destroy this world and usurp its place with another; the cheat is all the more apparent when we perceive that this other world is of quite incredible promise only, and made good merely to the hopeless and dispirited. For it is only in a degenerate state of mind, and in fact a very depressed moment in one's experience, that the thin and ethereal character of this apostate world of heavenly ideals can be superimposed upon the human mind.

Worship in all its forms is a most unhealthy and depressing violation of the spirit of mankind. It is really a form of insanity, and an actual "harkening back" to human savagery when insanity was a mark of religious authority.

Whatever saps away the spirit of man will open his body to ills. Paul asserts that many were sick, and that not a few members of the primitive Christian church died because of taking the communion service too seriously. The connection between the more artistic forms of holiness and emaciation ought to tell the tale loudly enough. Spirit is vitality and health and robustness; there is not much intelligent admiration goes out to the approach towards ghosthood through leanness and skinniness. We can greatly assist the health of mankind by worldly joy and by remorseful ridicule of those unhealthy methods and ideals which make for the reduction of the indomitable spirit of the race.

But worldliness seems to be in quite as bad straights as other worldliness. This is not so, but if it were so, no intelligent mind would misunderstand the state of the case. In the first place, it is not worldliness we

announce as the cure, but intelligence, which is always full of spirit. In the second place, a little insight shows that many have all the conscience of "other worldliness," with none of the external ceremony. Their spirit is quite as humiliated by ignorance as though they practiced every jot and tittle of reverence and worship.

Besides, it is not merely the trumpery of external religion that cows the spirit of man and woman, but the "moralic acid" of an ethical civilization. This huge, invisible monster takes advantage of mankind in every possible way. Its arts and sciences bring out in blazonry all the spells of a chican interpretation of the elemental world, and festoon the bare facts of experience with layer after layer of intricate and mysterious meaning, until the victim cringes in the thought of his ignorance, and his proud and haughty and conquering spirit is quite knocked out of him, and he takes orders with the smiling gratitude of the hereditary slave. Thus every pain has the brevet and shoulder-strap of an authorized punishment, although it deserves to be treated as a liar.

Any viewpoint that is able to foster the idea of right and wrong, to adjudge rewards and punishments, to condemn and establish conviction of sin and judgment, is sure to act against the spirit of any human being. There is but one value that certainly delivers and maintains the spirit of a man or woman in the state of completeness and joy, and that value is the genuine experience of freedom. Truth must render us that freedom, or it never can be secured. Intelligence is the only approach to truth. Ignorance is the only obstacle to freedom. There is little spirit left in the very ignorant. Soon after ignorant people feel some intensity of hope and vigor of will, there issues from them challenges and defiance, instead of prayers. This is very disagreeable to their rulers. They can not be trodden down so easily or amiably as before. They stand up against artificial bonds and begin to get better acquainted with nature, whom the priests and civilizers have told them is all their enemy. But they soon learn better than this, and nature seems to pour into their souls both spirit and intelligence. Freedom is wholly in their minds. They do not expect to win this liberty by any other means than understanding. They start out after health.

Thus, it dawns upon them at once that they should have full possession of their bodies and the entire authority over the physical and mental functions. It ought to be very clear to any mind that there could exist no inherent energy of justice or right by which a person could bargain away his body or its acts. And this becomes still more plain when men are found making social, financial and ethical contracts for their remote descendants. The ignorant attempts to influence posterity has left us many very unhappy conditions, and forced the race to inherit continual struggle and rebellion. No wonder Ibsen insisted upon revolt as the chief business of mankind. Now the ways of intelligence are not as the ways of ignorance. The viewpoint is quite different. The power called into the field of action is

vastly greater and of a sort so unguessed by ignorance that, for the most part, the race lack perception of it. And yet, the entire program of intelligence to secure happiness, freedom and health is simple and sound and reliable. It consists in the statement form that we must be free, happy and healthy now in order that intelligence should deliver that fact to us. What can cheat us out of our liberty? Nothing can in fact do so, but ignorance can hold us away from our own if we submit to ignorance. And just here comes in the efficacy of spirit. Whoever has spirit enough will refuse to be ground down by limitations and abuses, even though they may have the sanction of all we may be able to perceive of justice, authority and right.

With spirit enough we are sure to challenge the whole principle of right and wrong. This was the way of the primeval free men and women. They held that to stoop to treat with right and wrong was the fall of man. It does take spirit in much intensity to defy the standards of ethics and religion and civilization. But there is a whole lot at stake and one can invoke spirit. No one ever gets intelligence in a depressed state of mind. The darkness of ignorance may come out into our experience and make it look as though the whole universe was against us. But there is the fierce hour when spirit sets the teeth and refuses to compromise, because intelligence has had this much say in our mind, that there is nothing impossible to the wise, that understanding can turn white into black and find a way where none exists.

Ignorance is, and ought to be, easy victim in the hands of intelligence. It is not good sense to let the feeling lodge in the mind that there is no way to do or be what you have a right by virtue of what you are to do or be. What you can do and what you can be is not limited by anything, for being is infinite. Spirit is the life of this fact of every possibility staring us in the face. No man or woman of spirit ever can give up. Even surrender is not surrender if the spirit is not depressed.

No one is excused from having spirit. No one is excused from being all there is in him to be. To be excused would amount to being allowed to cease to exist, or to persist, in ignorant states of mind. Ignorance is perishable. Some quite feel that their old age ought to explain away their chances with life and freedom. They honestly fall back upon the feeling that they are too old to have the youthful spirit. They are in the decline of life. How can spirit reduce years? They find their thoughts turn back upon their past, and cast their hopes with yearning towards the returned list of heavenly treasures. The fact that they are not excused is shown by their getting just what they surrender to demanding. They had to demand within the horizon of their reason. But they might have let the light of intelligence gleam in upon their reasons.

There is no joy for me to kick at a downed mind. So we must say to those who have practically made their will with the cosmic machinery and find it out of their reach to demand authoritatively the

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cure and cancellation of age—to such we must say that they can not be excused and will not be, but will return to their lot in the appointed hour. It is not the mark of the spirited soul to make anything of this, but to challenge the keepers in the name of the truth with the last breath. Truly no word of truth is lost. In fact, no lot can ever crush the spirit, however nearly it may seem to.

He who moralized in the sententious fashion of saying "Ye can not serve God and mammon" has never been clever enough to keep men from trying to. Nor do such remarks appeal to those who have the nobler ideal of freedom. If there is so much to gain by reducing your masters to one, let us not forget the sublime advantage of having none at all; to be free is to have no master at all. Some of us expect the truth to mean freedom. There is far more sentiment than dignity and truth about service. It plays to the gallery. But freedom takes metal. Freedom is a matter of spirit. No poor in spirit need apply.

Understanding distinctly that no hope is herein held out that violation of the present system of ethics or religion or civilization can avail one straw towards freedom. Ignorance is not destroyed by annihilating its creations. Were every law and custom and practice erased, the same ignorance would spin another web. It is only intelligence that can set free. The present civil and social customs and laws are perhaps quite as good as the present state of general understanding could use. But for the sake of intelligence, let us be free to speak for that life of joy that has filled the heart of every seer—that truth which is above all notion of right and wrong; for who knows how soon it may be the feasible destiny of every human being on this planet.

Probably the broadest road to subjection and bondage is morality. This is the place where most folks squander their spirit. The great excuse is the conscience. Truth stung to death the Oriental conscience, but another one came up in its place. It has spread far outside the Christian or any other religion and become an essential factor of modern civilization. Conscience is the most depressing element in human existence. Its entire business is to reduce spirit. Every inch of its energy is laid out against health. It taxes vitality. It claws with shame. It bites with disgrace. It murders with morbidity both body and mind. It manufactures right and wrong. It discharges poison or stimulant into the blood and nerves. It has scared the race into trembling lest it leave them. It has made cowards of us all.

Conscience is the jaw of morality. Morality is an invention. In truth there is no evil. But ignorant folks think there is. They have been told so. They have not been let guess otherwise.

Nobody really thinks there is any intrinsic adultery, but if you do not pay your fees to the church and state you may become deeply disgraced, not because of your acts or thoughts, but for lack of the sanctioned license. This is no slur against love or matrimony. To show the crude ancestor of this affair, let us take the case of the modern Thibetan, who is a sort of "hold over" from ancient savagery.

The young Thibetan gets erotic. He

knows his lesson. Custom has him by the ears. The priests have custom by the nose. The young man with heart aflame must go to the father of the maiden. This is very clever as will turn out. The father must go and pretend to buy off the consent of the priests. Then the young Eros must go and "call the hand" of the father with a bigger cash down fee. Then, when the priests have "bled" both parties to the limit in their judgment, then the marriage is pulled off. Any other way would be a "blood feud," such imbeciles are humans.

The case is the same, with little alterations in staging, in the civilized community to-day. The parties pay the fee of from one to three dollars to the state, and from five to one hundred or more to the cloth; then comes the other expenses. All to fix up for probably misery of the most refined type known to modern social inquisitionism. The nerve of the thing is what appalls intelligence. As if the body were the state's for war or peace seems plausible enough to imbeciles, but to the intelligent it seems supremely ridiculous and insulting.

There is not the least excuse for supposing that our morality tends to make us really moral. Even though we had a taste for having our spirit slain by the racial conscience, there are incontestable reasons why the present practice of morality tends to reduce the vitality of the human race without adding a moiety to their virtue.

There are a number of very obvious reasons why people who are thoroughly immoral by nature submit to ethical principles. One is because their natures have been made slavish by their contact with experience. They have been ordered to reduce their animal spirits, to curb their fiery dispositions, to break their incorrigible wills, to bow in humility, to revere and worship, until they are certain that all this slavishness is pure goodness. They see plainly enough that it unfits them for this world, but they are bargaining for another. So they yield their fleece and some of their skin.

Another reason why men and women subscribe to moral principles when they haven't any is pure peacockiness. Public opinion has stings. There is much plain cowardice in vanity. The dread of shame and the horror of scandal fences in many very weak natures and keeps them weak. They die the death of pent-up passions. Then also many surrender to drink morali poison out of mere selfishness. They are told that every reason of self-interest is on the side of a moral life. There may have been great lucid intervals of their lives when their hearts bounded with the feeling Kipling put words to:

*"Where there ain't no ten commandments  
And a man can raise a thirst."*

But self-interest forced them to wear the white cross and the blue ribbon. They well understood the long arm of Mr. and Mrs. Grundy. They know the side their bread is buttered on. But there is not a shred of morality in all this, and they have bartered away their spirit, and they are sicker at heart than dogs.

Others sell their birthright of freedom from the principle of right and wrong on the cowardly terms of resignation. This is unhealthy, indeed. But all values have lost value for some who have reached the dregs

of the cup of life. So they give up their spirit and maudle moral sentiment to the tune of "Nearer, my God, to Thee." But is this in fact nearer to God? To be honest with you, we have never yet heard of any god who has the least particle of morality;—no, not if you inspect the entire pantheon of cosmic divinities. After twelve years of study no moral deity has ever once put in an appearance. Probably God must be above right and wrong, and may never have eaten the forbidden fruit. Spirit and resignation draw blood on each other when ever they meet. Resignation is but chronic depression, which keeps open house to every ailment.

Again, men and women trade their spirit for a very gloomy and fantastic state of mind; this makes them see subjective devils festooning every saloon and meat market. Liars speak words that turn into snakes. Adulterers shed an atmosphere of debility. People with tempers wear scarlet halos. They separate from their loved ones to harden up for celestial honors. They fast and pray and die in hope of post-mortem pay. This is both immoral and dispirited, as if humiliation were the only road to goodness and success in life.

Many also are simply too busy and thoughtless to challenge the soundness of rationality of the moral code. They take it as a foregone conclusion that the ten commandments are as much a part of nature as the elements. They are quite convinced of their duty to be good in the fashion of their day and generation, and their conviction is wholly a matter of course. To question the justice or intelligence of the doctrine of good and evil never comes before their mind seriously. So all their morality is mere irrationality. Spirit has no meaning to them. They lead quite negative lives. Illness does whatever it pleases with them. They have no spirit to challenge anything with. They are cowards to the core. Spirit would break up their whole life. Not a few surrender to ethical living out of sheer desperation. They have been caught in the net of conscience through subjective ignorance, or dragged under the wheels of calamity through lack of external intelligence. All these ways of "knuckling under" to the artificial laws of civilization have brought the race to the lowest and meanest and most unhealthy condition ever known to history or intutional research. There is not a trace of morality in all their moral practices; it is but submission to a master for the basest and crudest of motives.

But we see spirit now starting a rush of blood, a surge of living passion, a spasm of vital intelligence into the mind of mankind. To-day joy has its prophets. The respect for artificiality languishes. The flower of intelligence gives out more fragrance than culture and technique.

Once more let me emphasize the point that the life of joy has no bone to pick with modern or ancient ethical codes. Intelligence is not so cheap as to fight with shadows. The bliss that transcends the fall of man into notions of good and evil is even more inspired than the Greek spirit, which held that there was no evil except being caught at it. The indomitable spirit which functions as ecstasy is more deeply intelligent than to arouse any sort of condemnation, but avoids every appearance of evil.