

ITEMS AND IDEAS.

*** September.

*** Virgo, the Virgin.

*** "Who was Cain's wife?" A woman. *** One month's treatment and one year's subscription for one dollar.

*** Remember, your first month's treatment and your first year's subscription will be given for one dollar.

*** CHRISTIAN is sent to any address, anywhere in the world, to be paid for at the subscriber's convenience.

*** "Your August number is a marvelous revelation of absolute truth. I never have read anything to compare with it."

*** Philo, a monthly helper, Vol. 1, No. 1, September, 1900. Ten cents a year; single copy one cent. D. Gregorson, Santa Barbara, Cal.

*** "Echoes From Shadow Land" is a dainty cloth bound book of poems by Agnes Procter. The Alliance Publishing Co., Life building, New York.

総ジネ If you want CHRISTIAN, a postal card will fetch it; if you don't want it, a postal card will stop it. Don't return the paper to me. Give it to some one else.

*** "Do you believe in drugs?" No. I don't believe in anything. I know some things, and one of these things is that drugs are poison. Don't take poison!

*** A correspondent writes: "I have made up my mind that you are a humbug." Correct! Your mind is up made to date. I am both the hum and the bug.

浆状浆 "What is the sin against the Holy Ghost?"

I don't know. I have answered this question so often that I have forgotten how to answer it.

*** Aurora is the name of a new Mental Science monthly, printed in the Swedish language. It is one dollar a year. Address Gunsten Jungren, 460 Jackson street, St. Paul, Minn.

*** The Life, Kansas City, Mo., is now on our exchange list. The gingerbread has been taken from the heading and, all in all, the paper much improved. Weekly, one dollar a year.

*** Helen, not Helen of Troy, nor Helen of Sea Breeze, but my very own Helen, asks me for her to thank all of you who send selfaddressed and stamped envelopes. It saves a lot of licking!

*** The Light is a new monthly published from 3003 Locust street, St. Louis, Mo. It is edited by D. L. Sullivan and wife. It is a bright, well-printed journal of eight pages, fifty cents a year.

*** CHRISTIAN is not a country newspaper, but I am indebted to Chas. Scholtz, peach-grower, Beattie, Kas., for two crates of luscious peaches. They came prepaid, which adds to their sweetness.

*** I give treatments for all kinds of sickness, also for happiness and prosperity. Any love offering received in money, and what one is able to give. Maria Mather, 811 Washington street, Oakland, Cal.

*** Mrs. Della Haresnape, Jagua, Kas., is a Christian Science healer. She was a member of my household for several months, and I know her to possess healing powers to a marked degree. Terms from one to eight dollars per month.

*** Ideal Love, an exposition of views concerning a new marital system. Single numbers, ten cents. Yearly subscription, one dollar. This is a large, beautifully printed magazine, by Alice Wolverton Eyre, 809 Carnegie, New York City.

*** I print four thousand extra copies of CHRISTIAN every month. I am anxious to send these extra copies to persons who have not seen the paper. Therefore send me the names and addresses of persons whom you think would be interested in CHRISTIAN.

*** I have received from the author, Bessie Pennington Umstot, her new booklet, entitled "The Mary and Martha Consciousness and Condensed Recipes for Soul Growth," published by Universal Truth Publishing Co., 87 Washington street, Chicago, Ill.

*** The dear girls—Lady Blanche and Helen—are going to furnish the new "Home of CHRISTIAN" with money from new subscriptions. They are sending out a thousand sample copies every week. You will confer a favor by sending names of persons likely to be interested in CHRISTIAN.

*** Henry Harrison Brown announces that he is open for engagements to attend weddings and funerals; as an officiating minister, of course! What! A mental science editor making provisions for funerals? Tell it not to Helen, of Sea Breeze. By the way, he has removed his paper, Now, to San Jose, Cal.

*** Lilian Thompson's article has created quite a stir among my readers. It was her maiden effort, and in sending it she wrote: "If you do not think my article worth publishing I shall not feel at all hurt!" Edna's article was also her first. So you see August Christian has the honor of introducing to the public two new writers. %%% "Is Spirit invisible matter? If not, why?"

No! Spirit is never visible, and matter is never invisible. Spirit is always unseen, and matter is always seen. If matter disappears at one place it appears at another. But Spirit never comes forth, never appears. It is the unseen substance of all things.

*** Here is another five-dollar woman. Five is the number of the covenant. We shake hands and write our names with the five fingers. Her name is Lida, and this is the way she sends her congratulations;

"Not as a remuneration for 'value received,' but as an acknowledgment that I feel indebted to you for returning prosperity, I enclose five dollars."

*** We have learned from a reliable source that T. J. Shelton, the startling editor of CHRISTIAN, has gone and done it. We suppose that hereafter instead of calling himself I AM THE GREAT I AM, it will be WE AM. They have our good wishes.—From Thought, Alameda, Cal.

You are entirely mistaken! And I now know that you are not a married man. It is SHE AM!

*** The I AM has purchased a home for CHRISTIAN in Denver. It cost ten thousand dollars in round figures, without any furniture. I expect it to be paid for by ten thousand subscriptions to CHRISTIAN. My expectations have a sound financial basis, as there are over one hundred thousand readers of CHRISTIAN. Will get into our new home by October 1.

*** A good friend writes: "I expect to sail for Europe the first week in October, in company with my husband. Hope you will keep us in mind. We trust to avoid seasickness with your help."

While in my cabin in the mountains this summer I have crossed the ocean with many hundreds going to the Paris Exposition. In nearly every case the Silent Word has prevented sea-sickness.

*** "If a person does not find their soulmate on this side of life will they come together on the other side?"

Yes. They are already and always have been "together." The reunion must take place in the fullness of time, either here or hereafter. The only reason for the seeming separation is the joy of a more perfect union after each has been individualized and educated by experience.

*** The Radiant Centre, published monthly by Kate Atkinson Boehme, Washington, D. C., has grown steadily better and better with each number. July is the seventh number and it is brimful with good things. Kate has undoubtedly found her true place. When I knew her personally she was seeking her own. She is a magnificent planist, and is learning to use words with the same sense of harmony. In fact, in reading the July number of her paper I felt that the typewriter keys had taken the place of the plano keys.

*** "Discovery of a Lost Trail," by Charles B. Newcomb, author of "All's Right With the World." Cloth, 270 pages, \$1.50. Have just received this beautiful book, but have not had time to read it. All who have read "All's Right With the World" will be glad to receive this new volume from the same author. Address Lee & Shepard, publishers, Boston.

222 The Philistine for August has a splendid article by Hugh O. Pentecost. It is a righteous article on "Righteousness" by a righteous man. Hugh Pentecost is one of the best sinners I ever knew, and I have known a great many saintly sinners. Here is one sentence from this article: "A loving thief would be more righteous than a hardhearted honest man."

*** The August number of *The Nautilus* came to hand full of good things. But instead of shortening her name the editor comes forth with her address printed in this barbarous style: "Elizabeth Lois (Struble) Towne, Holyoke, Mass." The "Elizabeth" and "Lois" would be all right, but what in thunder has Struble to do with it! Say, Betsey Towne, let the dead past bury its dead!

*** "Can you, in any way, either through CHRISTIAN or otherwise, tell 'Margaret,' who wrote the letter in CHRISTIAN in August, that she has a letter waiting for her if she sends her address to Lock Box 743, Forest City, Iowa?"

I have told "Margaret," and now she can do as she pleases about sending for the letter. All my correspondence is strictly confidential.

*** "In order to become a clairvoyant, whose works are most advisable?"

It is hard to tell. Books are like food; what agrees with one person would not agree with another. I received more benefit from the works of Dr. J. H. Dewey at the beginning of my investigations than from any one else. His book entitled "The Way, the Truth and the Life" gave me the key. Address, for further particulars, Dr. J. H. Dewey, 117 West Eighty-fourth street, New York city.

*** Edna asks me to tell you that she has a Fruit Farm for sale. It is on the top of Spring Mountain, eighteen miles south of Little Rock, and half a mile from a pretty little town and depot. It is a lovely place, with a good house and other buildings. It is well stocked with many hundreds of berries and fruit trees. There are one hundred and twenty acres. It is worth two thousand dollars, but she will sell for fifteen hundred. Five hundred dollars cash and long time for the balance. For further particulars address Edna Shelton Martin, 2222 Chester street, Little Rock, Ark.

*** "What do you mean by the Universal Mind? Is it the mind we have and think with, or is it a separate one from our own?"

It is the subjective mind. The individual mind, in the new birth, recognizes the Universal Mind as the only real thought. There is an objective or mortal mind which is a kind of blackboard on which truth is worked out by the individual. This mortal mind is not permanent. It is as transient as the mortal body. In the subjective mind we live and move and have our being, but in the objective mind we learn our lessons and become individualized.

*** "Would one in harmony or getting into harmony with the truth have a better crop than those of unbelieving neighbors when the crops are of the same kind and drought prevails?"

Certainly! The elements are controlled by the mind. I gave one man treatments during the great drought in Oklahoma, and rain fell within the area of his own farm. I was not trying to help or hinder the neighbors, but made this man the center for rain, and it came. You must get to the place where you understand that you control the elements instead of the elements controlling you.

*** "Please make it plain to us how God and matter can exist when there is only God. You know Mrs. Eddy says 'there is no matter,' and that God does not have to pass through matter to be individualized."

It is utterly impossible to make it plain as to how God or matter exists. Nevertheless, they are both here and manifest to our intelligence. Spirit and matter are co-eternal. The one is substance, the other is shadow. The one is changeable, the other is unchangeable. Matter is the mold into which spirit is cast in the process of individualization. I am conscious of the presence of both spirit and matter, and the only way we know anything is through consciousness.

*** In the advertisement of my books it is stated they were not suitable to beginners or those who were taking their first lessons in the new thought. This simply means they are not for the infant class, but does not mean that they are not good for men and women who are ready for solid food. Josh Billings says: "The only way to teach a pup to swim is to chuck him in." I have come to believe that the very best thing for a student of the new thought is to let him plunge into deep water right in the start. In my two books advertised on the last page of this paper, you will find the highest statements of truth I know how to make.

*** The Open Door, Vol. 1, No. 1, August, 1960. A journal of the Occult. Open to all truths from whatever source. James Campbell Robinson, editor, publisher and proprietor. This is an eight-page monthly, one dollar a year. The editor claims to be the "Founder and Organizer of the Brotherhood of the Immortals in the Flesh." Now I do not believe this brotherhood has ever been organized or ever will be. Immortals are individualists, therefore cannot be organized. Each one of the immortals will be an organized individual, separate and distinct from every other individual. Nevertheless The Open Door is a beautifully printed and well edited paper.

*** Say, this office is not an agency for soul-mates! It is not a matrimonial bureau, it is not a free love establishment. There are letters coming to me every day, on this subject, that go right into the waste basket. You must work out your own salvation through your own spirit. How did I find "She whom my soul loves?" I don't know; for the life of me I cannot tell how it came about. I was traveling through the wilderness, there was not any road, for no one had gone that way before me. I just kept going right along through the quagmires, briers, thickets and underbrush. I never thought to blaze the way. It was a kind of calf path, anyway. The only thing I know is that I am Here.

222 I do not see how some people get along in the world. For instance, people who get CHRISTIAN regularly continue to send their letters to Little Rock. Others want to stop CHEISTIAN by returning their paper without any name or address. The other day a lady wrote to Eleanor Kirk, complaining she had sent me money and a letter last winter but had heard nothing from it. There was no address given in the letter, so neither Mrs. Kirk nor myself could help her. Of course she will not see this notice, as she does not get the paper, and we cannot send it to her until we find out where she lives. All such letters are placed on file, with a strong mental treatment, saying, write again and give your address.

*** "Will you kindly inform us through CHRISTIAN whether any evidence is to be found in the Bible in support of the theory that Pilate was the brother-in-law of Jesus Christ? It is so held by certain metaphysicians here. Also give us your views upon the subject of divorce, and under what circumstances it is justifiable."

I never heard of your first question before, and cannot see that it has anything to do with metaphysics. There is not anything in the Bible to support the theory. In answer to your second question, there is no such thing as divorcing and marrying by man. What God hath joined together cannot be put asunder. What man has joined can be unjoined. Common sense, good judgment and the sense of justice must govern in all man-made marriages and man-made divorces.

*** "Are you positive or negative? If the former, would your treatment reach one who is also that? My parents are said to have both been positive, and I am the same. But, although it is said that I now possess magnetism, the electricity has nearly been used up. Could the latter fact account for the failure of treatments to reach me?"

Since the coming of "She whom my soul loves" I am both positive and negative. In giving treatments I use the Divine Masculine and the Divine Feminine, and therefore I Am that I AM. This power is becoming my second nature, that is, I am getting to understand it. Of course the Word is always both positive and negative. For the treatments to reach you it is necessary that you become receptive, that is, neither positive nor negative. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye become as little children ye can in nowise enter into the kingdom of heaven."

*** "Do you mean by 'regeneration' that a person can so spiritualize their body that they do not have to go through the change called death? Will they become youthful in appearance, or will they hold their wrinkles and bald heads?"

I mean that death, the last enemy, will be destroyed. The old body will be thrown off, a little at a time, until it will have entirely disappeared. Wrinkles, bald heads and bandy shanks will be no more. Apollo and Venus will become realities instead of mere dreams. I AM Balcom, who was here the other day, declares he is building a body to suit himself. He has the correct idea, and if he does not succeed some other man will. The idea has taken hold of the human mind and it will never let go until the new man and the new woman are made perfect in love. If you get there before I do, tell them I am coming too.

*** I have no apology to make for shutting my house during the summer and going to my cabin in the mountains. Denver was filled with tourists all summer. Many of these were my friends and patrons. When they called at 1566 Marion street they found the house silent. We have all been in the mountains roughing it. Helen did not like to go with us at first, but soon began to enjoy solitude. All my mail was forwarded to me daily from Denver, therefore I have kept in touch with you all. It has been a glorious summer! The coming of "Lady Blanche" has doubled my power to heal. She gives her whole heart and mind to the people who write me for healing. Now that we have returned to our home in the city we will give every hour of our time to the suffering and troubled ones who come within our circle. But we cannot receive or make calls. It would be unjust to the thousands who are coming to us through the mail.

*** Here is a sample of letters I am receiving, which goes to show that the Spirit is right in sending CHRISTIAN without paying in advance. Just the other day a lady sent fifteen dollars to apply on subscription to CHRISTIAN.

"Thomas J. Shelton: Your paper has come to my address for some years. I have not responded, thinking if I did not you would stop sending it. Time has gone on and the paper still comes. I have come to like your way of giving out your thought and will now send five dollars. Cannot say that it pays for what I have received. You probably know if this pays for what I have received. You can send on the paper and then I shall know that I am not owing you anything. I am now just at the close of my 81st year, and expect to come up to my one hundred years in this life. Wishing success to you in your work, and if I continue on I shall want paper. Mrs. M. A. P."

I will say to this young lady of 18 (just reverse the figures of 81 and you have it!) that she will not be indebted to me until she is at least five years younger than she is now. CHRISTIAN just keeps a-going until the people become acquainted, and then the money comes without any trouble.

*** Let me say right here, once for all, that my correspondence is strictly confidential. You need not send to me for the names and addresses of the persons whose initials appear in CHRISTIAN. Many persons have written to me, for instance, for the address of "H. L.," whose letter appeared in the editorial, "Casting Out Devils." Why, I would no more think of giving the address of one of my correspondents, without their permission, than I would enter their private apartments without knocking. Letters with initials are published for the benefit of the public, but the private life of the individual

is sacred. In the case of public teachers, the giving of name and address is by their authority. Moreover, in such cases as that of "Eleanor" or "H. L.," publicity would interfere with my treatments. Long after Eleanor was sound and well I kept getting letters from persons who wanted to prescribe for her ailments. Not a soul except Eleanor and myself ever knew of her identity. Some of Eleanor Kirk's correspondents thought she was the afflicted one! But E. K. came out in her magazine and denied the allegation, and defied the alligator. I have thousands of patients, and they are just as sacred in my eyes as my own flesh and blood. They tell me all of their sorrows, their sufferings and their secrets, knowing that everything is in strict confidence.

*** As you know, it is against my rules to receive callers. But the other day Lizzie, the housekeeper, brought to my private office a card with this strange legend written in ink:

I AM Balcom, Gen'l Manager I AM Air Funnel Equipment Company for

Railroad Cars.

It was the week of the assassination of King Humbert and the attempt on the life of the Shah of Persia. I questioned Lizzie as to what manner of man had presented the card. She said he was "a fine-looking gentleman," so I ventured down stairs. A man of about fifty summers introduced himself and drew from his pocket my red book, entitled "I AM Sermons." He had found the book and wanted to find the man. I soon found out that he was a genuine disciple of the I AM and had invented an air funnel to take the place of ice in refrigerator cars. There are millions in it! He not only called himself I AM Balcom, but he calls his invention "The I AM Air Funnel Equipment." I was very glad to find a man who was as big a fool as I am. He has a beautiful suit of new hair grown on his bald head, and promises that I shall have the same luxuriant top-knot. This is not a joke. If you don't believe it address Clark Balcom, 145 La Salle street, Chicago.

*** I am not soliciting anybody's patronage. I am neither a leader nor follower. The only thing I can do for you is to speak the Silent Word for you until you are able to speak it for yourself. There are hundreds and thousands of people who have not been trained to think for themselves. They are engaged in business, in household affairs, and their minds are so taken up with other things that they cannot give attention to themselves. It is perfectly legitimate and rational for such persons to employ a mental healer. I give my entire attention to the needs of other people. Day by day I am training my mind to think out these problems for you. Therefore, when I take up your case and begin to speak the Silent Word for you, the vibrations begin to work for your good. But don't come to me in a patronizing way, as though you could hire me for so much money to do a certain amount of thinking. I give you treatments because I love you, not because I love your money. I

could issue a daily paper filled with testimonials. Each mail is so interesting that extracts from letters would make up a splendid mental science magazine. At first I was tempted to give my readers the benefit of these statements of truth, but now I use them in my own private office to add to the power and the strength of my own work. Our foreign mail is increasing to such an extent that there is seldom a mail that does not bring us foreign letters.

*** "Dr. Shelton: Lilian W. Thompson's article in August CHRISTIAN has moved me to ask a question, which I hope will be answered in September CHRISTIAN. It seems, when we remember how few men and women of the earth have attained to the 'right use of knowledge,' and how strong a hold the vibration called Death has on the human race, that it would be only logical to suppose that many men and women would develop in spiritual knowledge after their soul-mates (having been ignorant themselves) had met this change called death. If so, what then? If the one left on the earth has developed into the real life of love and knowledge, or spiritual wisdom, can the magnetic-electro current flowing forever between twin souls be brought into objective manifestation hetween those on earth and those in heaven? This question may be a foolish one. If it is, say so. I want wisdom. Martha D.'

Your question, my dear Martha, is not foolish. Death has no power to separate those who have been joined together. Just last winter a lovely young woman came to my door with this same question on her lips. I was alone in the house and answered the door bell. We had several interviews, and I found her receiving instructions through telepathy from her lover, who had passed out into the Sun. She returned East and is still going forward into the light of Truth. It is a wonderful revelation and confirmation of soul-mates. He is a resident of the Sun and she of the Earth, and yet constant communication is kept up between their minds. He is the tutor and she the pupil. There is no power in earth, hell or the grave to separate those whom God hath joined together.

*** One of my many Kates, no matter which one, writes me as follows:

"Dear Friend-So I come back to you as a Wedding Guest. It must be as Thomas Carlyle said, that certain people on all parts of the earth live in the spiritual existence now, enough to hold conversations. He calls it the 'communion of saints.' How we have to reverse our definitions! The saints are the sinners and the sinners saints. Heaven. the orthodox heaven, with nothing to do, would be hell to us. Hell or imperfection; something to do, is heaven. It comes to me that the Christ-drama is a living passion play that takes place in every soul that rises from the animal plain. They had the whole thing in ancient Egyptian mysteries, and in the Eleusinian mysteries of Greece. Passion, Resurrection, Ascension-the initiate was bound to the cross, which is purely a sex symbol, laid in the sepulchre, etc. People are bound to the cross as long as they are on the animal sex-plane. We all wander in the wilderness, we all make all the stations (or agonies) on our way to Calvary. One su-preme crucifixion! After that we cannot suffer more, so we do not."

Well, Kate. The mystery of all mysteries is mortality itself. Why should there be any serpent, any sex, any cross, any suffering, any kind of imperfection. I do not know; I have never found anyone who did know. I am just waiting and watching to see what the next unfoldment will be. There is one thing certain, life can never be understood from the mortal side of it. The more you look at mortality, the more you are puzzled and oppressed. Joyfully we enter the womb, mournfully we enter the tomb. Over and over, around and around, is the march of mortality. Often I hear the echo of the prayer book saying: "As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

*** "How long does it take the average mind to realize that it and God are one? I have been fully nine months trying to find Christ within me, and as strong as my desire is to become conscious of it, I have not succeeded."

Great Scott! Do you think that the new birth can be accomplished, and the child of eternity matured, in the same time it takes to bring forth a mortal baby? Nine months! Why, bless you, I was in the agonies of isolation for more than nine years! Even now I have to speak the silent Word to myself to realize that I am not separate from God. You may get the truth, so far as theory is concerned, in one hour. But the personal application of that truth is quite another thing. I have followed the Spirit daily for twelve years, and yet I often rave "against time and fate," and try to force things. Down deep in my own consciousness I know I am God; and yet mortal man is often tossed upon the waves of uncertainty. I know that my own will come to me, that there is no past and no future, but an everlasting now.

"The stars come nightly to the sky, The tidal wave unto the sea; Nor time nor space, nor deep nor high,

Can keep my own away from me.

In the Silence I know that this is true, but in the Noise I often forget. While we are in mortality we must go into the Silence every day, "Lest we forget, lest we forget!" It will take more than nine months to come into a realization and recognition of this truth.

*** "Are the Hebrew and Greek words 'sheol' and 'hades' properly translated in the Bible? Do they mean an everlasting hell, or simply the grave or pit? It is hardly thinkable that millions of intelligent people could be hoodooed for centuries into the belief of a red-hot hell unless it were true.

The above question is from a tenderhearted woman, who really believes in the orthodox hell. She is angry with her husband because he does not believe in it. Now, my dear, there are millions of intelligent people who have been hoodooed for centuries into a belief in the efficacy of the pig-tail! Millions of intelligent people can be hoodooed into anything. People are like sheep, when one jumps the fence all the rest follow. The Hebrew and Greek words mean the grave, the pit, the underworld. In other words, hell is mortality. It is an everlasting, red-hot, fire and brimstone hell; but the same person does not always remain in it. Hell, as a condition, always exists for the persons who need it. Hell is everlasting for mortality will always exist. But bless you, the same persons will not always remain mortal. We pass through hell on our way to Heaven. Some one has truly said that to appreciate heaven well one needs about fif-

teen minutes in hell. Fifteen minutes is not long enough for some of us. But we all need more or less time in the furnace of fire. The fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. Let me emphasize, once for all, that mortality is the only kind of hell, and it is everlasting; but not everlasting as a personal experience. There would be no sense in always keeping a man in hell. As you pass out you can always say ta-ta to those left behind and to those who are following. So you see, my dear girl, underlying the orthodox hell is the truth.

*** The editor of The Nautilus says that the highest compliment she ever heard paid to Shelton was "you can't put any dependence in what he says." Then she goes on to say you can depend upon most any old thing -the church, the state or Mrs. Eddy, etc. She makes a very good point, but I believe you can depend upon nearly everything I say in CHRISTIAN. I know nearly everything printed in CHRISTIAN is spoken by the I AM. You may accuse me of inconsistency and all that kind of thing, but truth is always paradoxical. The fellow who can see only one side of the shield can see only a half truth, and a half truth is the very worst form of a lie. It appears to be the whole truth when it is only half. Jesus Christ says for a man to forsake everything or he cannot gain the truth, but in the next breath he says that the man who gains the truth will gain everything in this world and in all other worlds. Therefore the man who forsakes everything does not really forsake anything. I left everything literally and truly, learned to hate everything, and lo! I have gained a hundredfold more of everything. The promise made in Luke xiv., 26, has been and is being literally fulfilled in me. Where is your inconsistency? I know that, whether you can depend upon what I say or not, I can depend upon what is said to me. The kingdom of God in me is more of a reality than the kingdom of any king or emperor upon the earth. Fiddlesticks! There is no comparison between my kingdom and the little jackleg emperors and kings of the earth. There is no danger of an anarchist shooting me. I am a kind of an anarchist myself; an individualist is an anarchist in principle but not in practice. A real anarchist is never a murderer. I am not afraid of Boxers or Boers (am a little shy of bores). I reign supreme in my own kingdom, without opposition. It is a big thing to be the Whole Thing. Throw it all away and it will all come back to you. The weak men are those who identify themselves with the parts. A part of anything is always weaker than the whole.

*** The following letter is printed, word for word, as written. It is from a man of mature years, who is at the head of one of the greatest financial institutions of this country:

Boston, August 20, 1900.

Thomas J. Shelton, Denver, Colo.: My Dear Brother—As a constant reader of THE CHRISTIAN I wish to make a statement to you as a matter of pure justice. Born, as I am, in the same sign as yourself (Gemini) I apprehend you, I think, correctly. When I first read THE CHRISTIAN I was often impressed by your dual inconsistencies, and yet

equally so with your absolute honesty and determined fairness to every one. The I AM within you, in its outreach and upreach, did not then always become one with THE I AM You were a dualistic masculine appreciating, but not having appropriated the Divine Feminine

When. accordance in with prophecy Blanche came into your life she brought the element of earth, and so of solidity, into your human, airy, aspirational being, and an im-mediate development began which each number of THE CHRISTIAN attests. The doctrine of soul mates which you had strongly de-nounced only a few months previous became reality to you and so proved itself true! Your expressions on various subjects in THE CHRISTIAN are now well-balanced inspirations which are of untold value to the world! You are now reaching up unto the Supreme Spirit with four hands instead of two and having them *filled* with Truth, and that makes *free* wherever it goes, so that from the Modern Athens your brother Gemini reaches out *both* hands in joyful greeting and holy congratulation to you and Blanche in your blessed unity of soul (surpassing knowledge), and predicts that your grand work of usefulness through THE CHRISTIAN has only just begun (comparatively), so that as the twentieth century dawns and becomes history THE CHRISTIAN will more and more Christianize its increasing number of pat-Thereby they become more and more rons. receptive to the healing vibrations, and also those for greater success in all the departments of human life. Sincerely your brother, Gemini

You have stated the case in true words. "Blanche" is not only my "balance wheel," but she is my Other Self. I was not only born in Gemini (the Twins), but born a twin. Perhaps my twin brother passed away that my twin sister might take his place. "Blanche," born May 1, is the very Earth (positive pole), which the Air (positive pole) in me demanded as a substantial basis for health, happiness and prosperity. The prophetic outlook of my Boston friend is more far-reaching than I dare to print. Let us patiently wait for the coming of the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

*** The following comes to me in a private letter from an M. D., who is also a professor in one of our large universities:

"Now, doctor, let me say—not in the spirit of criticism, for I would not presume to criticise you—but in reading 'Vibrations,' on page 20, I find this statement: 'You read a book and there is no movement in your own spiritual nature. It is because the You can words of the book are dead words. always tell the genuine by the thrill.' The one principle in your teaching that does not comply with this test is your belief in sun and worship; it is highly repulsive to me reduces you, in your majesty, to an idolater in my sight. The Aztecs were undoubtedly the purest sun worshipers known to history, and think of the human torture and sacrifice of life annually made in accordance with worship of such an objective entity as the sun. It would be difficult to imagine a more atrocious scene than the sun dance of the Ojibway Indians. If there was any wisdom in the worship of the sun why should the sacrifice of human life be permitted, or even enter the hearts of the devotees? Kindly answer this, either privately or in CHRIS-TIAN. Please find enclosed five dollars.'

I am not a sun worshiper. I am the Sun! There is a great difference between worship and recognition. Those who worship seldom recognize. The man who bows before an idol would not do so if he recognized the absolute worthlessness of the idol. Fear is the

basis of all worship. What is called awe is merely fear. A man may look at Niagara Falls, but he does not worship it. He may gaze into the heavens, but if he recognizes the geography of the solar system and is acquainted with the planets he does not worship. Knowledge does away with his worship. The mysterious, the awful, the socalled sacred, loses all awe-inspiring power when dissected and analyzed. Your so-called sun worshipers turned their backs to the sun, and began to bow down before the shadow cast by their own ignorance. It is but a step from sun worship to moon worship. Those who worshiped the moon and put their altars in the groves were lewd, sensual and devilish. The time has come for man to recognize himself as Spirit, and therefore identified with all that really is. Therefore I say unto you that I am the Sun. I am the moon and the stars. I am everything, therefore I do not worship anything. This is freedom. The reason why men became slaves is because they recognized other men as their masters. All worshipers are in slavery because they recognize a superior. In the kingdom of Truth there are no superiors or inferiors. There is not anything or anyone higher than I am. There is not anything or anyone lower than I am. I am the heights and I am the depths. I am above and I am below. I am omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. I am the first and the last, the beginning and the end. The recognition of this unity is freedom. Jesus Christ tried to make us understand this unity. He invites us to sit down upon His throne, as He has sat down upon the throne of the Father. In other words, there is only one throne, one dominion, one sovereignty, and this is within the individual.

※決発 "How can anyone ask the Spirit to guide in taking a train or in any other affair of life? How can one be sure what the answer is?"

It would take many volumes to answer the above questions, and then, perhaps, the answer would not be understood. It is something you must work out from within your own self. The main thing is to be still long enough to get a correct answer from your own Spirit. If you are anxious and try to force an answer you will get what you want, whether it is true or false. The subjective mind is silenced by objective anxiety. There is a gentle stillness pervading the subjective world. If you disturb this stillness by mortal mind anxiety, fear, distress or anything which will make a noise, you will fail to get the truth. This is the reason why so many people think the Spirit is lying or deceiving. It is because you are trying to compel the Spirit to give you what you think you desire. If the Spirit had given me what I thought I desired my real desires would have been left unsatisfied. If all my prayers had been answered, none of them would have been answered. It would have been a regular jumble. The Spirit of wisdom knows what I need, and therefore I leave everything to the mind of the Spirit. I ask what day I should do this or that, and remain still long enough to get an answer. For instance, in looking for a home in Denver, I thought I was satisfied many weeks

before I found the place that really filled full my desires for a home. This place seemed to come to me by an accident, yet there are no accidents. Then again, if you have any fears or doubts about the answer, you may know it is not the truth. I am choosing for other people every day of the world. But all I do is to command them to stand still until the Spirit can lead them into the Truth. This command to stand still may be rapidly followed by the command to go forward. You only have to stand still long enough to get the true Word. Do not think you are standing still when you are jumping up and down in your tracks and wringing your hands with anxiety for fear you will not get the true answer. Standing still in the true spiritual sense is utter indifference. The only way for the Spirit to guide you is for you to stop trying to guide yourself. There is both a subjective and objective mind. They can't both work at the same time. When the objective mind is active, the subjective mind is silent. God will not speak to you while the devil is talking. The devil is mortality. Just as long as you are following the devil you will be full of fears, doubts, distress and disease. All of these "D's" belong in the devil's dominion. There is not any such thing as a devil in reality. It may be here to-day and gone to-morrow. It is a dominion of nightmares, bad dreams and indigestion. Never ask the devil what train you are going to take or how you shall act in any business transaction. He will tell you a lie. He cannot tell the truth. He is a liar and the father of it. A lie is nothing, therefore the father had to be Old Nothing. It is matter. You may think matter is substantial. But a fire (which is something) will burn into nothingness the solid granite. Aye, in the Chicago fire the so-called imperishable steel and iron disappeared as so much chaff. If the elements, the substantial spiritual elements, surrounding this planet were to take fire our little world would melt like a snowball. What we call our everlasting hills would not last many hours. Therefore, don't depend upon the devil for anything. Ask the Spirit, the subjective, where you should go, when you should go, how you should go, and what you should do. It is the real self taking command. When this changeable thing called the devil, or matter, begins to talk do you say: "Get thee behind me, Satan."

MORE RELIGION.

By Flora Parris Howard.

I am glad Edna wrote that clear, strong article on Faith. I cannot understand why you printed it, unless you are getting more religion. You have said that you have neither religion nor morals. You have also said: "There is no religion in Science, and no Science in religion." Of course each individualized man or woman must see this for himself or herself, but to me there is not enough religion applied to others by the ones who think they have it. If there were the whole world would not be in such a turmoil as it is to-day. Priests, popes, churches, creeds or ministers do not make

religion. If they had it in reality there would be none of these titles of commanding superiority in profession only; it is the lack of it in them that causes the discord now and ever has. Professing anything is no sign whatever that they possess it. For profession and possession are not synonymous terms; the former we have had, without the latter, for ages. Wars and bloodshed, tortures and burnings at the stake have followed, all under the name of religion; but it was profession only. Had they possessed the real thing they would have observed the law that the Master put forth: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do you even so to them, for this is the law." This is religion. I heard a Methodist minister pray yesterday: "May God bless and uphold our arms against China and all other nations we are trying to subdue." This is his religion, trying to shoot intelligence into a man from the mouth of a cannon. Ingersoll's paraphrase on Pope's "An Honest Man Is the Noblest Work of God" reads: "An Honest God Is the Noblest Work of Man." An honest man has an honest God. Religion means "binding fast," and when it is bound fast to you and you to it, you will always do right. I like 'getting religion"-it has long been a byword and slur-and getting enough of it so it stays by you in your everyday life. This is the Faith that takes no denial that Edna wrote of.

In nearly all of Christ's healing he says, "according to thy faith, be it unto thee," or similar words. He never insured any one's life. "Sin no more lest a worse thing come unto thee," or "Neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more," has always been the command. Who has lived it? Many wonder why they are not healed, and why they do not stay healed; here is your answer. Why did not Schlatter's patients stay healed? And why did he not heal many that he did not? Christ himself could not have healed "And he did not many mighty works them. there, because of their unbelief." Here again is your answer. You can get your life insured in a reliable stock company for ten or twenty thousand dollars; but you cannot in this, for there is no stock only what is within yourself, and you are the company. So you have no complaints to make of not being healed or staying healed only to yourself and of yourself. Your diseased body is the result of a diseased life. Clean house! No one can do it as well as yourself. Religion is broad; it has no bounds; it is Christian; it is Christ-like; it is scientific, for it is honesty. Edna, receive my thanks for your Faith! You struck the keynote to the deepest music. You were brave enough to beard the Lion in his den, and he printed it. God bless you for writing, and him for printing it.

Hotel Oaks, Los Angeles, Cal.

The most solid comfort one can fall back upon, is the thought that the business of one's life—the work at home after the holiday is done—is to help in some small way to reduce the sum of ignorance, degradation and misery on the face of this beautiful earth.—George Eliot.

"MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING."

By Blanche Shelton.

"In marriage can we dispense with the legal ties or formal ceremony prescribed by the laws of the land?"

Certainly! This seems a very radical statement, but somewhere in this universe every soul has its counterpart, its other half. Whether these halves will meet, forming the perfect whole, is a question. If they do, man-made laws cannot separate them. The man and woman may be legally bound to another, but if they belong to each other, these other bonds are sure to be dissolved. The finding of each other is the more important thing. When this is accomplished every barrier will be burned away. All this talk about dispensing with the marriage ceremony is much ado about nothing.

Does it not seem absurd that a person, by mumbling over a few words, can make a man and a woman husband and wife? What folly! Man and his laws can neither marry nor divorce them; they are following a universal law and are married by their spirits, hence by the Spirit. The Spirit joins them for their own happiness and unfoldment, and no man can say them nay. If they really belong to each other, this union is to last for eternity, and they will take pride in recognizing it before all the world, calling attention, by perfect harmony, that they are One. If this be so, why then antagonize the existing order of things? Why bring down opposition and inharmony by defying the rules and regulations made for promoting order and the protection of the little lives that are yet to enter this world? These rules and regulations cannot marry you, neither can they divorce you. Where a man really loves a woman with a pure, whole-souled love, he will protect her from every injury, every hurt, and would not place her in a position where a breath of scandal would wound her. They would delight to stand up, hand in hand, and proclaim to all the world that they are husband and wife, that they belong to each other. This they would do, if their love was pure and holy, a thing of which to be proud. Where that love (?) is secret, where they boast that a marriage tie is not necessary, that they will always be true to each other, etc., etc., their love is not worthy of the name. While I grant the ceremony is not essential, if it is true love, why do they so fear the "tie?" Because, way down in their hearts, they know their love is only a paltry imitation, and they want to be free to cast it aside, like a squeezed lemon, and seck some other "affinity," when they have drained the cup of pleasure dry and reached the dregs.

Perfect love casteth out all fear! Those who have experienced it are not afraid to go through the marriage ceremony. I hear some one say, "How about all those unhappy marriages, where uncongenial couples are tied to each other and cannot free themselves?" They can and do free themselves. No law can make a man and woman live together when they decide that they will not. If they consider they are honor bound to live together, the laws of honor still exist,

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even if they have not passed through the marriage ceremony. In the present stage of society the ceremony should not be dispensed with. When this restriction is no longer needed it will be cast aside. But we are not all living up to our highest ideals, we are not all being true to ourselves, and as long as even a small portion are following along misguided roads, society must be protected, and we show our common sense and good taste when we willingly conform to these laws. By the word society, I mean public order, the social life of our country. When the time comes that we do not need this protection the marriage ceremony will become obsolete.

It seems to me that too much time is wasted upon the so-called "sex question." Why discuss it? Why think of it? The opinions you ask for are merely theories, or at the very best a personal experience. Another's experience cannot affect us. We must each live our own lives, gain our own experience, and pass through our own unfoldment. You cannot develop me any more than I can develop you. So why not leave that all-absorbing question to take care of itself? Let it work out its own salvation, which it is bound to do. If you do not, sex is apt to master you instead of you mastering sex. No one can settle it for you; it will settle itself. By trying to force a settlement you are merely placing obstacles in the way of a clear understanding. Drop the problem, cease to care whether it is ever solved, stop thinking of it, and some morning you will wake up with the truth shining out clear and bright before you. When that time comes you will reach your highest ideal of spirituality, love and soul growth, for they are all linked together.

HOPE.

By Edna Shelton Martin.

"It is good that a man hope and quietly wait."

But how many people can bear to go plodding on, meekly awaiting the fulfillment of a desire? Most of you want what you want, and want it then and there. By your own resistance you hinder instead of helping yourselves. You try to drive everything before you by the power of your own will instead of realizing the fact that there is only one will. This is the God-will. When you come to understand this will, you will be willing to "hope and quietly wait," knowing that "God worketh in you to will and to do his good pleasure."

Hope, in its primary sense, means "to extend, to reach forward." Thus when you send out vibrations for your own success, you are unconsciously "reaching forward" for health, happiness and prosperity. You are recognizing your Divine right to these things. Therefore you should have an abundant entrance into the fulness of joy and glory. How are you coming into possession of your kingdom? By "reaching forward" and "quietly waiting." Every day something will come. You will find that "in repose lies all power!"

I always like to think of the meaning each flower conveys. The flowers speak to us, if only we would stop to interpret their language. *Hope* is represented by the snowdrop.

"As Hope, with bowed head, silent stood, And on her golden anchor leant, Watching below the angry flood,

While Winter, 'mid the dreariment Half-buried in the drifted snow,

Lay sleeping on the frozen ground, Not heeding how the wind did blow,

Bitter and bleak on all around: She gazed on Spring, who at her feet

Was looking at the snow and sleet. Spring sighed, and through the driving gale

Her warm breath caught the falling snow, And from the flakes a flower as pale

Did into spotless whiteness blow; Hope, smiling, saw the blossom fall,

And watched its root strike in the earth-'I will that flower the Snowdrop call,' And through all ages it shall be

In reverence held, for love of me."

After the long winter comes the Snowdrop, and at sight of the little flower new life comes to us. It fills us with Hope, for it tells us that Spring will soon be here. All Nature rejoices in the returning sun and warmth. All that is alive becomes more thoroughly alive, and existence is a pleasure. Why not keep constantly in this vibration? You who have grown discouraged over many reverses and repeated struggles, lift your head, smooth the cloud of care from your brow, and let the Voice of Hope sing in your heart. Then you will find your whole life changed. All Nature will take on a new aspect. You will find in every tree, shrub and flower a comforting friend that will not turn from you. You will have better health, a clearer mind, and more money than you ever had before. You will be at peace with God; which means at peace with yourself.

Perhaps these words will reach the eye of some one in one of our soldiers' homes, or some overworked mother, some young girl made old by a burden too heavy for her shoulders to bear, some young man who has tried so many times for a "job" and failed to get it, some elderly person who has come to feel that "I'm only in the way!" If, as you read these lines, you will remember about the snowdrop and take courage, I will have accomplished the purpose of my wrlting. Papa used to say he treated CHRISTIAN before it went out to each subscriber (and he did, and does to-day), but I have treated each word that I have written. I am not addressing you who have come into the kingdom of your own, but the one who is cast down and out of hope. Brace up, dear friend, and "reach forward." You are not "one in millions," but THE ONE. Get this idea fixed firmly in your mind, and you will know that you are not old, you do not have to carry burdens, you are not in the way, and you will get a situation. This is the Word I send out for you. Again I say, remember the snowdrop, the harbinger of spring, the messenger of Hope.

Hope stooped and kissed her sister Spring, And said, "For hours when thou art gone I'm left alone without a thing

That I can fix my heart upon;

'Twill cheer me many a lonely hour, And in the future I shall see Those who would sink raised by that flower,

They'll look on it, then think of thee; And many a weary heart shall sing,

"The Snowdrop bringeth Hope and Spring!"

THOSE WHO DO NOT LIVE BY THE WAY.

The death of William Steinitz in the insane ward of a private hospital will doubtless be regarded by many as another proof that genius and madness are closely allied.

Steinitz was probably the greatest master of the complicated game of chess that has arisen since the day of Paul Morphy. His solution of difficult chess problems, and his wonderful feats of memorizing plays made him a master of the checkered board. There is little doubt that his close application to the intricate problems of chess drove him to insanity, and his death is an effective warning to those who think and dream of nothing but one subject.

Many American business men to-day are allowing the problems of success to overcome them just as the problems of the board eventually overcome the master of the game of chess. The doctrine of centralization and specialization has been preached until it has extended to men's very thoughts, and in consequence the individual who does not "take his business home to dinner" is an exception rather than the rule. Even in England this spirit is becoming more noticeable, as evidenced by the welcome recently extended to an American street railway magnate, in the hope that he "would wake London up." Yet the happiest and longest-lived were those who

"Lived in that past Georgian day, When men were less inclined to say That "Time is gold," and overlay With toil their pleasure."

When the cause of the death of such men as Steinitz is sought it will be found that the madness and succeeding oblivion do not come so much from the mere possession of genius as from the inability to temper life with enough variety to overcome the lurking deadliness of the specialization habit.—Denver Republican.

I take the above text from an editorial in the Denver Republican for the purpose of preaching a sermon. There is something in Mental Science called concentration, and I am continually asked to direct people as to how they are to concentrate. Then there is something else called chemicalization, a word coined by Mrs. Eddy. The word chemicalization is enough to produce the effects which it is intended to name. By this word it is intended to convey a kind of seething, boiling, sputtering condition of the intellect. Concentration generally brings on chemicalization. But chemicalization is just another name for going crazy. The human mind can not bear too much concentration on any one subject. To concentrate the mind on as lofty a subject as Christian Science, or Mental Science, will soon produce softening of the brain. What do I advise in reference to concentration? Don't concentrate! When anyone asks me how they shall practice concentration, I always give Punch's advice to those about to marry: "Don't!" It is a very bad business. It upsets the intellect. It produces mental indigestion.

What, pray, are you going to concentrate? The moral mind? If so, what good is there in it? You can't concentrate the Divine Mind. You have no power to focus the Universal Mind on any one subject. Concentration, then, is a characteristic of mortal mind. The spiritual mind is characterized by repose. If you want to reach results through the spiritual mind you must cultivate repose. "Be still, and know that I AM God!" You can't work out these problems by the physical act of thinking. They must come up in you in the form of illumination. The Sun shines, but you don't shine the Sun. The Sun may shine on you and in you, but you don't shine it. Thus it is with spiritual unfoldment. It comes up from within you and unfolds like the growth of a plant. Jesus said: "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a mustard seed." No man ever had the power by concentration to create a mustard seed. The seed is and its unfoldment is by the law of its own being. The same is true of spiritual inspiration. It is within you and the best way to bring it out is to let it alone.

The human mind can bear just so much and no more. It is a very weak instrument. Truth does not come through the human intellect; it comes from the spirit within, and the intellect is a kind of moon, showing the reflected light of the spirit. Suppose the moon should try to get up a system of concentration in order to be a Sun. Do you think it would ever succeed? No more can ye become possessed of spiritual knowledge by concentration of your own mortal mind. All this struggle is useless. I know all about the fuss and feathers of religion. I spent many years blowing and puffing, agonizing and sweating in an effort to gain spiritual knowledge. I woke up one day and found out I was a fool. My so-called knowledge was nonsense. It took me longer to get all that chaff and rubbish out of my mind than it did to put it there. I found out that when the Spirit wanted to tell me anything there was an inner illumination which revealed the Truth without an effort. There is a certain amount of education necessary. I am not talking against the study of books and the making of yourself thoroughly familiar with the literature of the earth, but I am talking against this foolish effort to concentrate the mind for the purpose of spiritual illumination. It does not come that way. When you shut out the noise and confusion of the world, the light from within you will show you all things. The promise of Jesus Christ was: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." You see this spiritual Truth is not only a teacher, but one that assists the memory. It is wonderful how forgotten things will come to the mind through spiritual illumination! It is a shining light on the mortal mind, illuminating all the dark places of the human intellect.

Again, Jesus Christ says: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of Truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come." Now this Spirit of Truth has already come. He has been on the earth a long time. It is another name for the I AM. The I AM is the Word, the manifesting power of Universal Spirit. This power is within you; it is called forth in the Silence. Therefore you listen, for "whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak." You simply listen and speak what you hear from the Spirit. This listening is done in the Silence and not in the Noise. Father Ryan has expressed this thought very beautifully in verse:

I walk down the valley of silence Down the dim voiceless valley alone; And I hear not the fall of a footstep

Around me—save God's and my own, And the hush of my heart is as holy As hovers where angels have flown.

In the hush of the Valley of Silence,

I dream all the songs that I sing; And the music floats down the dim Valley Till each finds a word for a wing,

That to men, like the doves of the deluge, The message of Peace they may bring.

But far out on the deep there are billows, That never shall break on the beach; And I have heard songs in the Silence That shall never float into speech; And I have had dreams in the Valley Too lofty for language to reach.

The silence is a good place to go to for rest and refreshment; but it will not do for you to try to stay there all the time. You have often heard farmers talk of diversified crops. This means that the same thing should not be grown every year on the same ground. If you raise cotton and cotton only, you will wear out your soil; the same thing may be said of tobacco and almost everything else grown in the earth for profit. Divert your mind! Study many sides of many questions. Play games, go to theatres, to church, to the base ball grounds, go fishing, but don't go crazy over any one thing.

If you could see the many letters, from half-crazy people, on my desk every day, you would know how serious I am in sending out this warning. This is an age, an hour, of mighty thoughts. Only a well-poised mind can walk the waves of this New Thought, and ride the billows of the sun vibrations of new love and hope which are coming to the human race. Therefore go slow! You are not going to get left. Your own will come to you. There is plenty of time; for all eternity is here, and you only hinder by trying to hasten. Rest, rest in the promises. They will all be fulfilled in due time.

Why should you be in such a hurry? The sense of eternity is the very first thing you must gain. Just as long as you are marking time you are in the psychic atmosphere and under the dominion of the moon. Restlessness, the want of ease, the feeling as if you were going somewhere, comes from moon vibrations. The very first consciousness of the Spirit brings rest and peace. Things may be whirling around you, but you are not whirling. You are surprised at the ease with which you sit still and watch people running to and fro on the earth. You are surprised that you ever were in a hurry about anything. You have lost all of that feeling that you were waiting for a train. You are no longer in a hurry to catch the lightning express; you are not going anywhere and you are not coming from anywhere; your own is not running away from you and you are no longer filled with the fear that you are going to miss something. All these symptoms show that you have come into spiritual consciousness. The symptoms of the psychic are restlessness, fever, excitement, anxiety, and above all things, fear. Spiritual consciousness brings repose.

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Write your name and full address in every letter and mention the amount of money you enclose.

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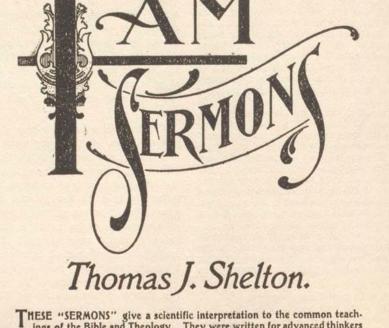
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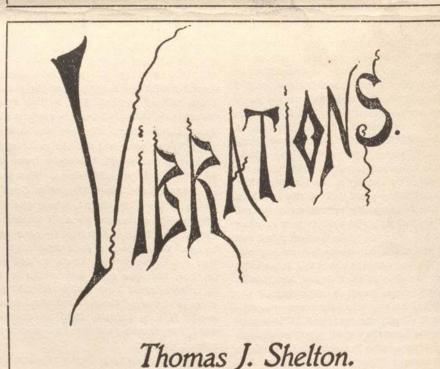
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