

The Hermetist.

GET UNDERSTANDING.

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MRS. M. M. PHELON, O.S.B. }

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They are such tiny feet!

They have gone such a little way to meet
The years which are required to break
Their steps to evenness, and make
Them go
More sure and slow.

They are such little hands!

Be kind—things are so new, and life but stands
A step beyond the doorway. All around
New day has found
Such tempting things to shine upon; and so
The hands are tempted off, you know.

They are such fond, clear eyes,

That widen to surprise
At every turn! They are so often held
To sun or flowers—showers soon dispelled
By looking in our face,
Love asks for such, more grace.

They are such fair, frail gifts!

Uncertain as the rifts
Of light that lay along the sky—
They may not be here by-and-by,
Give them not only love, but more, above
And harder—patience with the love.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

Lecture Delivered by Mrs. M. M. Phelon at
Her Parlors.

"The best sermon ever preached is truth's practice." Mark the expression, "truth's practice," not the practice of truth. Truth is not an attribute of God, but is God. Why do we believe there is truth? Who ever saw truth? How do we know there is God? Who ever saw God? How do we know that we think? No one ever saw with the physical eyes, a thought. We then must know these things from within, or by thought and our spiritual understanding. A right understanding;

of God. Truth is necessary to right living. If we would work out or solve a problem in mathematics aright, we must have a correct statement—one based upon a fundamental principle—and then be governed by the principle every step of the way in order to bring right results. So with the problem of life. There must be a governing principle—an inherent something which never changes upon which to base a statement. There can be but one correct or scientific statement of being, and that statement must apply to all alike. What can this statement be but truth? God is truth; then God is the governing principle by which the truth of the statement is made apparent. God being the one and only cause or principle, and man his image or likeness—then man must be the idea or effect of that cause, and is consequently governed by the principle. Principle never changes, hence there can be no change in the government of man. All are governed alike—No fitting nor changing of the principle to suit individual ideas or to please mankind. God is no respecter of persons. Effects proceeding from the same cause are all alike. Man as effect is one, and that one the idea of God. God said, let us make man in our image and likeness. God is spirit, life, love, truth, substance and intelligence, and since man is God's image and likeness, he must reflect God and be governed by Him. If God is spirit and cause, and man His idea, then man is spiritual and reflects only that which God shows forth from Himself, namely life, truth, love, substance and intelligence. This being admitted as a statement of fact, then it follows that man is one, and mankind, individualized reflections or manifestations of that one. How do we know this to be the true statement of being? Let us inquire within for the answer. There is something of which we are conscious, that tells us there is but one God, one cause, and that, that God or cause is good, just, loving, truthful, real, harmonious. Recognizing this something within, it becomes knowledge, and this knowledge is self-evident, and like all self-evident propositions, needs no proof. This view of God and our relations to Him satisfies our understanding and confirms the justice of God. From this testimony of our inner consciousness we perceive at once the truth, namely, that principle, God, changes not, and that the problem of every human reflected life must be worked out from the same statement, governed by the same principle. Principle never creates error—never recognizes error, is not responsible for it in any way; and hence principle is not the cause of the seeming difference in the human family—is not the cause of the errors that are so apparent to personal sense, and not, cannot interfere to prevent the errors

that arise from wrong statements in regard to the problem of life. The reflected intelligence, named man, from its very nature is free to interpret the statement of being for itself, and make its own assertions about itself, as the being whose problem is to be solved. Principle does not interfere when the worker of a mathematical problem persists in calling three times five eighteen. The error can run on indefinitely and the worker can continue to repeat his statement at every step, and hundreds, aye thousands, of on lookers may agree with him, yet the only result obtained will be confusion. So with the problem of life. God, principle, does not cannot interfere with the freedom of choice in His human expressions or subjects. The statement and the governing principle are unchangeable, unalterable, and must ever remain so. The relation of idea to principle, which is the relation of the perfect spiritual being to God, or of effect to cause, never changes, but always underlies all existence, awaiting recognition. The statements of error regarding sin, sickness and death, and all their accompanying troop of evils, are but beliefs, opinions and self-assertions, about the problem of life, and their only effect is to bring confusion and suffering to the believers, but does not change the truth of being one iota. The principle of life remains the same—awaiting recognition and application, in order to correct all the ills arising from the statements of error. When the worker discovers his errors of statement, or finds that he has been calling three times five eighteen, he patiently goes back over his work—remembers the principle, states the truth in accordance with that principle, and thus the errors disappear as the mere nothingness which they are. Now, my friends, is not all this self-evident? Does it not prove itself? Does not this view give you a clearer understanding of life and its trials than you ever had before? Does it not bring you nearer to God, the Divine Principle of Being, and show you the only cause, which is of itself no cause, of evil, but simply the assertions, beliefs and errors of statements of mortal mind about mankind? Do you see that God is not the cause or sender of sickness, or the cause of sin or death? That it shows God to be more, infinitely more good, just, loving, tender, glorious and unchanging in His omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence, than you had ever conceived him to be. Since we are created in His likeness, then are we not more, vastly more, when viewed from the plain of Truth, as spiritual beings, than when considered from the standpoint of error or matter? Principle applied corrects all error. It does not apply itself, nor fight for recognition. Man must return for himself, and choose whether he will continue to govern himself by belief or be governed by Divine Principle,

Traveling in the Astral, not long since, it was my good fortune to find myself in the presence of an individual, tall, almost beyond conception. The gravity of his features was of superhuman dignity. His knowledge was wonderful. His speech fluent and eloquent, both in idea and expression. I joined the throng of those about him who, enchanted and enchained by his speech and manner, listened eagerly to the slightest syllable. The fragment of his speech lingering in my memory, on my return, I have here written down as best I can:

"On that portion of the maps of the earth's surface named the Western Hemisphere, can be seen an immense island-studded sea; and an almost land-locked gulf. Into this gulf stretches a nearly perfect parallelogram, the peninsula of Yucatan."

"So long ago, that history fades into the hoary mists of tradition, the gulf was an inland lake. Where the inland seas now show themselves amid the blue waters, a continent sunned itself in the tropical light of blazing days."

"This continent was peopled by the Aryan race. Its torrid latitude seemed with all needed conditions to make exotic life most desirable, whether such life were on the animal or vegetable plane. The population increased and multiplied, until the whole broad land became one vast city. Temples and palaces; works of skill and art abounded everywhere. These did not there represent the slow toil of human sweat, and agony. Brilliant in design and bold in execution, they were the manifestation of soul power over elemental force. The worship of the one God was taught. To those who so desired, training for the acquisition of the most occult and mystic knowledge ever known to men was possible."

"They, who had charge of these departments, as keepers of the keys and treasuries of knowledge, were neither unaware nor regardless of the fact, of other planes of existence upon the earth. For thousands of years, they strove earnestly to better these karmic states, by imparting a knowledge of the truth."

"By the silent power of thought, the whole people were lifted grade by grade. As rapidly as they could assimilate the instructions, of so much influence and assistance, in the duties and pleasures of manifested life, they were advanced in the scale of existence."

"It is true of all people, nations, kindreds and tongues, that, in proportion as the lower classes rise from a given starting point, towards the light, the force generated by action, will lift those who

better to be the wise men of a nation of philosophers, than the learned of a race of cringing slaves. When the ground moves up, they who are above, capable of sustaining themselves, by their real knowledge and power, mount still higher, and must of necessity attain advancement. It is the certain result of that which they know and understand, and will be in exact proportion thereto."

"It was not strange, therefore, that these, of whom I speak, should have held the mightiest secrets of the universe in their keeping. It was not strange, that the trackless wastes of waters in unknown seas became familiar paths; nor that the mysteries of the earth, of the air, and of all nature were at their command. The archives of all ancient nations, carved in their books of stone, speak clearly and truly of them. In Egypt, in Assyria, in India, are found the same inscriptions, conveying the same knowledge that is to-day locked up in the ruined cities covered by the forests of thousands of years, in Yucatan."

"The Western lamp of knowledge, was ever lighted from the East. From the proud, seagirt continent of Atlantis went forth, as from the sun under the Heavens, to all parts of the earth, the illumination of truth and knowledge. This was alluded to by Him, whom the present Western people accept as their teacher of spiritual truths, even the Christos, in his parable of the "Sower who went forth to sow." Some seed fell on good ground, some on rocky soil, and so on."

"The old Atlantians going forth in their galleys, hither and yon, so controlled the elements by their knowledge of the hidden laws of nature, that they had no need to wait for the moving of the winds nor tides. Like the Christos, in the storm, who stilled the waves and bade them be at peace, and immediately they were at the place whither they were going, so the Atlantians moved over the wide wastes of waters on the earth, scattering the seeds of this knowledge along the shores they visited. These seeds fell into good ground in Egypt, Chaldea and India."

"It can be noted, wherever the pressure of the 'circle of necessity' was least, on the matter, over which the spirit sought to maintain domination, meanwhile sinking deeper and deeper into its illusions with the downward rush of the cycle, there, the seeds of truth took root and grew most vigorously. At such points, were more leisure, strength and purpose, to bring forth, as fruit, the knowledge of the unseen in greatest perfection and abundance. Spirit domination is a tropical fruit, coming to perfection only in those countries where the earth ministers voluntarily, anticipating man's

physical necessities. Sun-cooked food does not stimulate groveling desires."

"The dwellers in more rigorous latitudes, who, in spite of opposing force, still gain spiritual elevation for themselves, are richer in strength and force. This is the result of the discipline acquired in the overcoming the natural obstacles of their environment. The harder the battle, the more important the victory." So long as Atlantis obeyed the law, that makes all men gods in wisdom, so long it prospered mightily. But there came, at last, a time, when, they who held the knowledge only in trust, permitted themselves to think, to wish and to plan for grasping the absolute control of the whole earth. In this, they sought to climb into the seat and place of the Supreme. Beyond the earth lies only the universe. The Microcosm is the result of the Macrocosm."

"The good denies no one knowledge. Whoever seeks to take from Him, His authority—His Supremacy, arrogating absorption into the oneness, in any other, than the appointed ways which lie open to all created beings, shows a taint of grossness inspiring the desire, surely provocative of swift destruction. They, who had thus planned, were powerful, far beyond the conception of the mortal, holding at their option all the secrets of nature, save one; that one embracing the Infinite Supremacy of God."

"These leaders had freely scattered knowledge abroad upon the earth. By self-denial and long training they had attained, and yet almost at the supreme moment, dazzled by the brightness of the illumination, they, looked once again toward self. From their memories faded out the unchanging law: 'Thus far and no farther shalt thou go.' 'The ceaseless breaking of the waves of the mighty sea, against the silent resistance of rock-bound coasts, ceased to utter its warning to their dazed mentality. The on-coming day, beginning of the end to those who had forgotten the very life and essence of God, was at hand. The proud city of Atlantis, city and continent one, sitting as a queen upon the throne of the waters, had, by arrogant presumption filled full the cup of the wrath of the Almighty, most merciful and just God. They, masters of all elements, and all lawful, unseen knowledge, now sought the forbidden, as though the part should demand equality with the whole. Step by step they had reached the veil separating them from the whiteness of the Immediate Presence. And now as the last, fatal step, they had determined, by the exercise of their most potent skill, to rend the veil and come unheralded and unsummoned before the face of Him, whom no man hath seen at any time."

"Carefully were their preparations made, most

accurately were the computations wrought out, to decide the auspicious hour. Panoplied with the consciousness of previous achievement, their call to the embattled hosts of the universe, rang out along the astral currents. Confidently, the word of power was spoken, in all the pride of human will. The expected accomplishment did not follow. To their amazed horror, they discerned a new vibration, a resultant of Creative Thought, in its own defense. To this, they had no key, and bewildered they perceived that the immense force so unbound by their own act, had destroyed the balancing and adjustment of nature's laws. Utterly without resource they waited aghast for the outcome."

"Knowing the inner, behold the outer. The sun rises in splendor, in the East. The mighty millions who dwelt in palaces and temples, in luxury and frugality, dream not of, nor can they understand the word of the Omnipotent, already spoken and gone forth whereunto it was sent. They awake to their life of ease and pleasure, with the self-assurance that the thing existing hitherto, will still continue to be. Have we not compelling power and force? Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. They pass on, without concern to their usual affairs. Clouds begin to interrupt the clearness of the sky. They deepen and darken. The uncontrollable elemental storm of the tropics after years of duration, has burst its prisoning fetters. The people are awed, but comfort their hearts with the idea that it will pass on, as it has hitherto done. They know not, that the sceptre had slipped from the nerveless hands of the former rulers. The cyclone becomes a continuous storm of day after day. The rocking earth vibrates and trembles, with each new blast, wind enveloped, of the mighty forces of nature, drawn hither and now uncontrolled. The waters of the sea invade the land. Lashed on by the fierce winds upon their surface, the waters seem to be mounting higher and higher. It is now known that it was the sinking of the land, and not the rising of the waters, which, for ages, has hidden from investigation the abodes of the richest and most powerful nation ever dwelling upon the earth. Foot by foot, all that had ever been given to us by the waters was again demanded, and returned to its origin. The records of thousands of years were buried beneath the storm-tossed waters. Buried, but not destroyed. Only the mountain tops, and highest plateaus, now known as islands, remained of the vast continent. The inland lake mingled its waters with the incoming torrent from the salty ocean, and a great gulf waters the southern shore of the country where now live in peace and wonder of the past, the children of the same mighty race. A few scattered books, written in stone, were saved,

capacity increasing more and more every day by the operation of God Himself, there is left not a moment of emptiness to such a soul. When God desires to come Himself to fill such a soul, all that is not God must give place to Him.

"Fear and dread, for ages and ages after this awful cataclysm, detained within the boundaries of their own country; the feeble remnant of a people once so invincible and adventuresome. The outside world passed beyond and forgot them."

Here the speaker paused. His whole form seemed to dilate. Then his musical words commenced again, but now more slowly, and with a mournful cadence.

"The story of the Light-bearer who fell from heaven is our story. The story of the great flood is our story. If through human weakness I transgressed, and thereby the arcane knowledge and wisdom were lost from the earth, and the light extinguished, during six thousand years, I have grievously atoned for it. From this dire condition, no relief was permitted by re-incarnation, lest through recurring memories, injury come to the race. Not until the last vestige of pride and selfishness have been burned out by submissive contemplation, will ever come the boon of a new beginning."

"None, but him to whom the experience has come, can understand what it is to exist outside of the love currents of the universe, without the companionship of a single soul, and enveloped in the separating displeasure of the Almighty. Such is the condition of him to whom, much has been given, and who through selfishness and foolish assumption, has sought to usurp the place of the most High God. In like manner, is the condition of him, who in anyway plans to crush and depress those whose lives and advancement were intrusted to his care."

"No transgressors of the law have ever earned greater punishment, than that meted out to the souls of wilful violators of their known duty, when these had been set in the olden temples, as keepers of the Ancient Wisdom Religion of God's Divine Truth."

W. P. PHELON, M. D.

EXCERPTS FROM MADAME GUION'S "MYSTIC SENSE OF THE SCRIPTURES."

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The loins girded denote the purity of the obedience to God's will, which is the girdle that happily binds us. The outward purity of the flesh is but the type of inward purity, or purity of the spirit.

The soul has no sooner arrived at the degree of annihilation answering to God's designs, than from that moment it passes into Him—and he himself becomes the fullness of that void. God first of all empties the soul of all sin, and in proportion as he does so, he fills it with his gifts and graces.

But as God can always communicate Himself to infinity, so can He enlarge this soul more and more, and give himself always more and more to it. And this

capacity increasing more and more every day by the operation of God Himself, there is left not a moment of emptiness to such a soul. When God desires to come Himself to fill such a soul, all that is not God must give place to Him.

Some souls never acquire perfection, for they continually desire to acquire everything and to lose nothing. The divine life is never given to a soul until it has lost its own. He that loses his life shall find it. The soul usually requires seven years to lose, little by little, its own inventions (or mortal beliefs) preparatory to entering into the degree of naked faith.

IV.

Mystic passages—the soul fully abandoned only can partake of it.

The first trials of souls in the desert of faith proceed more from fear than from fact.

Courage—dear souls, when you have passed the Red Sea, you shall no more find nor behold the enemies you now see at the entrance. It belongs to the Lord to fight for you, and you remain in repose. A division of the waters must be made that it may be possible to pass over dry-shod. The spirit must be separated from the senses, but this division is wrought by no human means. That is reserved for the Holy Spirit. The drying up of the waters of the sea causes everything to flow into the centre, where all is concealed in the mystic abyss.

Then they know to attribute all to God, and to faithfully render to Him all the glory of what He has done in their behalf.

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The Soul the supreme subject and object of culture.—To know self involves the knowledge of God.—Matter a mode or condition of Spirit.—The ascent from Nature's seeming-Spirits and how to discern them.—The sphere and the circles of the astral.—The Shades, Purgatory, Hell, "the Devil," Souls in prison.—The elements subject to the human will.—*Anima bruta* and *anima divina*.—Metempsychosis and re-incarnation. Cause of the Soul's loss. Need of a positive, and danger of a negative attitude of mind.—Spirit, Elemental and Elementary.—The Genius or guardian angel; the Gods or Archangels.—Priestly degradation of the character of Deity.—The occult side of the sacrificial system.—Astral spirits personate the celestial.

The nature and constitution of the Ego. Psyche or the soul individualized through matter.—Karma, or the result of past conduct and knowledge.—The soul of the planet, like that of the individual, transmigrates and passes on.—The evolution of the Ego and the Church.—Sixfold state of the first Church; "Paradise." Allegorical character of the Scriptures.—The parable of the Fall.—A new Annunciation.—Interpretation of Scripture intellectual, and intuitional.—The Soul of the Woman, through whose aspiration Man in a mystical sense becomes the image of God.—The Soul's history allegorized in Genesis and Revelation, Rise and Fall of the original Church.

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The various orders of the astral.—The Shades, Purgatory, Hell, "the Devil," Souls in prison.—The elements subject to the human will.—*Anima bruta* and *anima divina*.—Metempsychosis and re-incarnation. Cause of the Soul's loss. Need of a positive, and danger of a negative attitude of mind.—Spirit, Elemental and Elementary.—The Genius or guardian angel; the Gods or Archangels.—Priestly degradation of the character of Deity.—The occult side of the sacrificial system.—Astral spirits personate the celestial.



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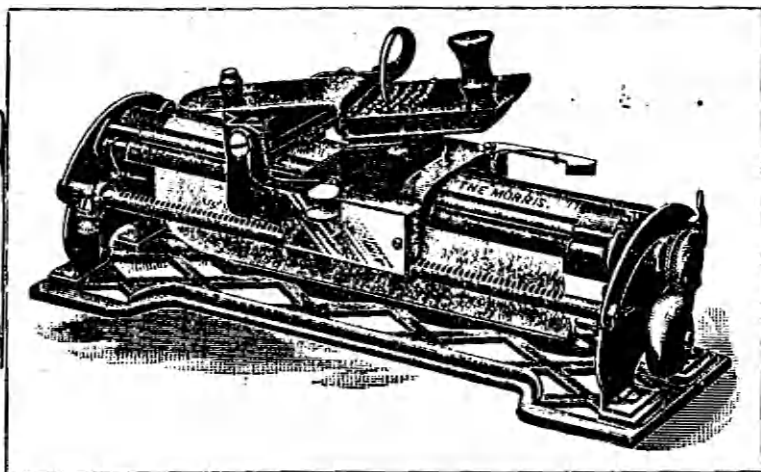
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