

LIFE'S INFINITE SPIRITUAL IDEAS
CANNOT BE OBLITERATED

"God has countless ideas, and they all have one Principle and parentage." "These ideas range from the infinitesimal to infinity, and the highest ideas are the sons and daughters of God."

—S. & H., pp. 517, 503.

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LIFE'S INFINITE SPIRITUAL IDEAS CANNOT BE OBLITERATED

SEVEN WEST NINETY-SIXTH STREET.

October 24, 1911.

Mr. S———.

My Dear Mr. S——:

After reading your letter to me of October 14th, 1911, I find your card among the practitioners advertised in *The Christian Science Journal*, a periodical established by our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, for the promulgation of her teachings in Christian Science or divine metaphysics. Your letter shows unmistakably that you are not following her fundamental teachings. The expressions contained in it bear the earmarks of theosophy and the Vedanta philosophy,—the absorption of man into Deity and the loss of man's individuality,—and indicate that you have fallen absolutely short of understanding the clear, divinely directed thought and instructions of the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy.

I beg, therefore, you will not attribute my reply to an effort to convince you that Mary Baker Eddy

was and is Life's spiritual idea, since in your letter to me you repudiate this statement, nor will I attempt to argue, for your acceptance, the spiritual fact that she was the "scribe of Spirit" and was divinely inspired to write "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures,"—but I will refer you to her own words, "God is my Life," which she uttered as she entered upon her final demonstration over the experience called death.

Christian Scientists understand Mrs. Eddy's declaration to mean that God is the life of each individual idea; that our beloved Leader recognized herself as spiritual, an individual member of the body of Christ—God—and that she understood that no other existence was real. She taught that God is not the life of so-called mortal man, or physical personalities which are false material concepts possessing neither "life, truth, intelligence, nor substance" and are "neither person, place, nor thing." (Science and Health, pp. 468, 71).

It is evident from her great life work that she claimed her oneness with God, and to spiritual sense it is apparent that she is *continuing* to destroy all mortal mentality, that the ideal man of God's creating may be revealed as "Immanuel, or 'God with us.'" She says, "Let the 'male and female' of God's creating appear." (S. & H., p. 249).

You say "that Jesus, as well as every other so-called human personality, was a myth." Mrs. Eddy teaches that the false *material sense* of Jesus embodied

itself in corporeality, and this is true of the *finite* material sense, or the fleshly *physical* personality of every human so-called man,—but the *individual* Jesus, and the *individual* Mary Baker Eddy are not “myths;” they are divine ideas which reflect Spirit, Mind, Soul, and are indissolubly connected with God whose power and presence they manifest. Mrs. Eddy will demonstrate her words:

“The last appearing of Truth will be a wholly spiritual idea of God and of man, without the fetters of the flesh, or corporeality. This infinite idea of infinity will be, is, as eternal as its divine Principle. * * * The material corporeality disappears; and individual spirituality, perfect and eternal, appears—never to disappear.”

(Misc. Writgs., p. 165).

With such strong convictions as you express in your letter that Jesus was a “myth” and that “Neither Jesus nor Mary Baker Eddy ever ‘lived in God,’ and neither ever will,” it seems futile to attempt to convince you of the spiritual facts of scientific being—one infinite God with His infinite ideas, which compose His universe or body, the one man, called Christ. But I must meet, with truth, the erroneous concept of *individual man*, or of the divine individuality of Jesus and of Mary Baker Eddy. The carnal mind has always been at enmity with the Christ Mind, but the Christ consciousness in each individual will finally destroy every

suggestion of the "accuser of our brethren," which accuser, the claim of sin,—the lie, is the belief of life in matter, the false claim called hypnotism, mesmerism, theosophy, spiritualism, Oriental witchcraft, esoteric magic,—everything that "worketh abomination, or maketh a lie," or that opposes God and His Christ.

Speaking of Christ Jesus, Mrs. Eddy says :

"Clad with divine might, he was ready to stem the tide of Judaism, and prove his power, derived from Spirit, to be supreme; lay himself as a lamb upon the altar of materialism, and therefrom rise to his nativity in Spirit." (Misc. Writgs., p. 162).

In my pamphlet, "Give God the Glory," you will find the statement that the human Jesus, or the material false concept, was not born of God, but that Christ Jesus, the spiritual man or the mental Messiah, the reflector of Mind, eternal Life, Truth and Love, was God's son or idea, the representative of the Father.

"The opposite and false views of the people hid from their sense Christ's sonship with God. They could not discern his spiritual existence. Their carnal minds were at enmity with it. Their thoughts were filled with mortal error, instead of with God's spiritual idea as presented by Christ Jesus. The likeness of God we lose sight of through sin, which beclouds the spiritual sense of Truth; and we realize this likeness only when we subdue sin and prove man's heritage, the liberty of the sons of God." (S. & H., p. 315).

This is also true of our beloved Leader, Mrs. Eddy. The human, false, mortal belief of life in matter, which only finite sense could cognize, was not from God, nor does God, Truth, Life, know aught of evil or death, since God, infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, or ideas, fill all space. In this spiritual universe, which is the only universe, there is no mortal mind to embody itself in flesh, however persistently the claim of evil would declare for its counterfeit man, and universe.

It is well for us to frequently recall our Leader's injunction to "cling steadfastly to God and His idea." (S. & H., p. 495). The carnal mind in every age has ignored Christ Jesus, the ideal man. It has beheld only the false concept or the human Jesus. The Scriptures declare: "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;" (I Cor. 15:50). and they also say, "All flesh is grass"—dust to dust. It was Christ Jesus' mission to destroy incarnate error.

Throughout all time there have been those who failed to perceive the ideal man, but who were willing to admit that physical personality is the expression of the carnal mind. These were unable through lack of spiritual discernment to perceive and acknowledge the Christ idea, or the real individual identities, the sons and daughters of God.

Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy are inseparable from Principle. They always were, and they forever will be spiritual individualities, reflectors of the one great cause, omnipotent Mind, divine Con-

sciousness. Our revered Leader teaches us to regard ourselves as spiritual, and to reflect the light of understanding or spiritual consciousness which dissolves the human or finite sense of man.

If, as you say, "Neither Jesus nor Mary Baker Eddy ever 'lived in God,' and neither ever will," through what agency did they teach eternal Life? If, as you say, they are "myths," I ask, can a myth lead humanity to God, and can so-called mortal thought conceive aught of Spirit? Christ Jesus did his mighty works through the understanding of his spiritual individuality which emanated from God.

Mrs. Eddy wrote *Science and Health*, and established Christian Science, which is the understanding of Christ, Truth. Through what sense did our Leader discover Christian Science if not through spiritual sense which is her divine individuality, and is inseparable from God? Finite sense cannot discern the things of Spirit. She says, "the material senses can take no cognizance of Spirit." (S. & H., p. 546). Paul says, "But the natural man [mortal so-called man] receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Cor. 2:14). It is then logical to conclude that her spiritual self, the divine individuality, named by human belief, Mary Baker Eddy, wrote *Science and Health*. She further says, "No human pen nor tongue taught me the Science contained in this book, *SCIENCE AND HEALTH*." (S. & H., p. 110). It was therefore

Spirit operating through the spiritual consciousness or the divine mouthpiece known to humanity as **Mary Baker Eddy**. Again she says in *Science and Health*, page 273, "The physical senses can take no cognizance of God and spiritual Truth." Therefore it must have been the Ego-God which revealed Truth to the world through the spiritual consciousness, or the ego, of **Mary Baker Eddy**. Mrs. Eddy rose to conscious unity with God through the development of her spiritual sense, and, like Jesus, she spoke with authority. She tells us that "Spiritual love makes man conscious that God is his Father, and the consciousness of God as Love gives man power with untold furtherance." (*Message to The Mother Church*, 1902, pp. 8-9).

Christ Jesus demonstrated the power of his truth consciousness over mortal mentality within and without, until he vanquished *entirely* all finite beliefs, and found his eternal oneness with God. His unseen individuality—unseen to human sense—was the perfect reflection of a perfect Principle, one of the infinite ideas of infinite Mind, which spiritual sense alone can cognize.

"This scientific sense of being, forsaking matter for Spirit, by no means suggests man's absorption into Deity and the loss of his identity, but confers upon man enlarged individuality, a wider sphere of thought and action, a more expansive love, a higher and more permanent peace." (S. & H., p. 265).

"Man is not absorbed in Deity; for he is forever individual; but what this everlasting individuality is, remains to be learned. Mortals have not seen it. That which is born of the flesh is not man's eternal identity. Spiritual and immortal man alone is God's likeness, and that which is mortal is not man in a spiritually scientific sense. A material, sinful mortal is but the counterfeit of immortal man." (No and Yes, p. 25).

When may we look for this spiritual ideal man, the real and only verity of scientific being? Our Leader tells us,

"* * * when we subordinate the false testimony of the corporeal senses to the facts of Science, we shall see this true likeness and reflection everywhere." (S. & H., p. 516).

"I do not deny, I maintain, the individuality and reality of man; but I do so on a divine Principle, not based on a human conception and birth. The scientific man and his Maker are here; and you would be none other than this man, if you would subordinate the fleshly perceptions to the spiritual sense and source of being." (Unity of Good, p. 46).

"Man, made in His likeness, possesses and reflects God's dominion over all the earth. Man and woman as coexistent and eternal with God forever reflect, in glorified quality, the infinite Father-Mother God." (S. & H., p. 516).

In speaking of his Principle, God, Christ Jesus said, "He shall glorify me:" that is, He shall express Himself through my spiritual consciousness, which is an emanation of His infinite selfhood, and I, (the ego man), shall show it unto you. "All things that the Father hath are mine." Here Christ Jesus voiced God, claimed his divine birthright or spiritual identity, and said, "for he shall receive of mine and shall show it unto you." (John 16-13).

Alas! for the blindness of humanity, to whom mortal thought and its phenomena, flesh, blood and bones, sin, sickness and death, are supposed to come from God, and are believed to be real. Alas! for Israel after the flesh, who admits the unreality of mortal thought and its manifestations, but fails to perceive through the veil of the flesh the individual ideas which reflect, manifest, represent, eternal Life, Truth and Love. Both the ideal man and the ideal woman, Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy, have shown the proof of scientific being unto all who have been able to receive divine metaphysics. John, speaking of Jesus, said: "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:11, 12).

This is also true of Mrs. Eddy, the royal reflector of God, divine Love.

In my third class in the Massachusetts Metaphysical College under Mrs. Eddy's personal instruc-

tion, my spiritual sense was so quickened that I grasped this great scientific fact of being,—that man is mental, spiritual consciousness, not a mortal mentality, nor a fleshly so-called mind which embodies itself in a physical body. This spiritual animus has continually increased, gradually dissolving the human sense, and it will finally entirely obliterate all mortal mentality leaving me conscious only of my spiritual reality as God's idea. I have never for one moment since that influx of Spirit doubted Mrs. Eddy's teaching, which revealed God and His ideas as all and inseparable, nor have I been clouded as to my unity with Principle, my spiritual identity as one of God's infinite ideas. This has enabled me to maintain and exercise my divine prerogative as God's child, to uncover and rebuke impersonal error through whatever physical personality it was voiced. This spiritual consciousness has been the power which has healed, with the Word, all manner of diseases, and before which, claims of malignant cancer in the last stages have disappeared in one or two treatments. When humanity attains to Christ Jesus' spiritual illumination, spiritual concepts will behold and express only the ideal man, and will know that no other man ever existed; and the shadowy, substanceless mortal beliefs or "myths" will no longer deceive nor be mistaken for man. The light of spiritual understanding will finally dispel all illusions and will reveal God and His spiritual universe, peopled

with His spiritual ideas, all reflecting their divine Principle. This preserves inviolate the indivisibility of infinite Mind and its infinite ideas.

“Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals.”

(S. & H., pp. 476-477).

Lest my explanations do not cover all the objections to my statements which are contained in your letter; and that I may be sure to reply to the exceptions which you take to my question, “Has omnipotent Life ceased to manifest its power and presence through its spiritual idea, Mary Baker Eddy?” let me again repeat—Mary Baker Eddy was, is, and ever will be a spiritual idea of God. This statement is confirmed by her own words, “God is my Life.” Permit me to quote from your letter the following words :

“Surely, Mrs. Stetson, with all your knowledge of Christian Science, you cannot bunco yourself into believing that Mary Baker Eddy was, or is, Life’s spiritual idea.”

I am not acquainted with your term “bunco.” In fact, I do not remember ever having heard this word. I not only believe but I *understand* that Mrs. Eddy was, is, and ever will be God’s idea, His child, one of the infinite thoughts of our Father-Mother Love. She is a member of the body of Christ; so are you, so am I, so are all, as I have before stated. I

give no reality to so-called mortal mind and its manifestation—sin, and its embodiment, flesh, blood and bones—which ultimate in sickness, sorrow and death. These are *false material concepts* which Truth and Love, operating through the ideal man, will finally dissolve and obliterate.

Allow me to quote the next paragraph of your letter:

“If Christian Science teaches anything at all, it is that God never has known, doesn’t know, and never will know anything about matter, a material belief, or a human personality; and Mary Baker Eddy was nothing more nor less than a belief in and of a human personality; something seemingly able to cognize that which is apart from God, infinite Good.”

Our revered Leader, Mrs. Eddy, taught and teaches through her inspired writings that God knows nothing about matter, a mortal belief, or a human personality; and that the false sense of man which objectifies itself in physical personalities must be destroyed by spiritual sense, which reveals man as God’s idea, wholly apart from human physicality. Mrs. Eddy through spiritual illumination, her Christ consciousness, was able to cognize God, infinite good. I agree with our great Leader, Mrs. Eddy, that there is no matter in divine Mind, no finite personality in the infinite Person called God and His Christ.

You say that,

“Mary Baker Eddy was nothing more nor less than a belief in and of a human personality; something seemingly able to cognize that which is apart from God, infinite Good.”

To your material sense the illusion or material physicality is all you recognize of Mary Baker Eddy, and in blotting out the human, you deny the individuality or spiritual identity called Mary Baker Eddy. “* * * names are often expressive of spiritual ideas.” (S. & H., p. 320).

Spiritual sense reveals to Christian Scientists the divinity of Mrs. Eddy. We regard her as God's messenger, or voice, to this age, bringing the message of Truth and Love to suffering, sorrowing humanity. She has taught us to regard ourselves as immortal. Permit me to quote her words on this subject in reply to the following letter:

“Last evening I was catechized by a Christian Science practitioner because I referred to myself as an immortal idea of the one divine Mind. The practitioner said that my statement was wrong, because I still lived in my flesh. I replied that I did not live in my flesh, that my flesh lived or died according to the beliefs I entertained about it; but that, after coming to the light of Truth, I had found that I lived moved and had my being in God, and to obey Christ was not to know as real the beliefs of an earthly mortal. Please give the truth in the *Sentinel*, so that all may know it.”

MRS. EDDY'S REPLY.

"You are scientifically correct in your statement about yourself. You can never demonstrate spirituality until you declare yourself to be immortal and understand that you are so. Christian Science is absolute; it is neither behind the point of perfection nor advancing toward it; it is at this point and must be practised therefrom. Unless you fully perceive that you are the child of God, hence perfect, you have no Principle to demonstrate and no rule for its demonstration. By this I do not mean that mortals are the children of God,—far from it. In practising Christian Science you must state its Principle correctly, or you forfeit your ability to demonstrate it."

(Signed) MARY BAKER EDDY.

(C. S. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, p. 485).

She also says of this false, finite, mentality, or physicality, which is not man,

"A suppositional gust of evil in this evil world is the dark hour that precedes the dawn. This gust blows away the baubles of belief, for there is in reality no evil, no disease, no death; and the Christian Scientist who believes that he dies, gains a rich blessing of disbelief in death, and a higher realization of heaven.

"My beloved Edward A. Kimball, whose clear, correct teaching of Christian Science has been and is an inspiration to the whole Field, is here now as veritably as when he

visited me a year ago. If we would awaken to this recognition, we should see him here and realize that he never died; thus demonstrating the fundamental truth of Christian Science." (Signed) MARY BAKER EDDY.
(C. S. Sentinel, Vol. 12, 10).

When you state that Mrs. Eddy was "something seemingly able to cognize that which is apart from God, infinite Good," you doubtless refer to the undestroyed human sense which was able to cognize that which was apart from God. Mrs. Eddy, when speaking of the human and the divine of Jesus, says,

"When the human element in him struggled with the divine, our great Teacher said: 'Not my will, but Thine, be done!'—that is, Let not the flesh, but the Spirit, be represented in me." (S. & H., p. 33).

Christ Jesus was working out the false human sense of physicality which made him appreciable to humanity. In confirmation of this Mrs. Eddy says,

"Divine Truth must be known by its effects on the body as well as on the mind, before the Science of being can be demonstrated. Hence its embodiment in the incarnate Jesus,—that life-link forming the connection through which the real reaches the unreal, Soul rebukes sense, and Truth destroys error." (S. & H., p. 350).

"Father-Mother is the name for Deity, which indicates His tender relationship to His spiritual creation." (S. & H., p. 332).

Christian Science teaches that man is not absorbed in Deity, but that he *reflects* Deity in infinite manifestations of the one God. I claim my spiritual identity as coexistent and coeternal with God.

Your last paragraph reads :

“When the Christ - consciousness finally obliterates the so-called Augusta-Stetson-consciousness, there will remain only the consciousness of God,—which is all there ever was,—and this Ego can never be conscious of another entity which can itself be conscious of God, for that would instantly destroy the indivisibility of Mind, and man would then be conscious of something besides God.”

When my spiritual, or Christ consciousness, the Christ element, dissolves and finally “obliterates” the *false sense* or *material belief* which obscures the divine idea, my real self as God’s reflector, there will remain my spiritual consciousness, my individual identity, which has ever existed as an idea of God. I, Augusta E. Stetson was, and am, forever inseparable from my creator, God, who is my Life. This is true of everyone, for God and His infinite idea—man, is the only reality of being.

“If God, who is Life, were parted for a moment from His reflection, man, during that moment there would be no divinity reflected. The Ego would be unexpressed, and the Father would be childless,—no Father.”

(S. & H., p. 306).

Again I repeat "names are often expressive of spiritual ideas." Spirit is continually revealing to me my spiritual individuality, which reflects God, and cannot be separated from Him, therefore cannot be obliterated. I shall defend my name until the Messiah renames me. If it had been possible for the mental assassins to obliterate "the Augusta-Stetson-consciousness," they would have done so long ago. But their attempts were met. I reflected Truth and Love which nullified and destroyed for myself the suppositional power of malice, envy, jealousy and revenge, the qualities of the infuriated carnal mind which aimed at my Christ consciousness. If the Christian Scientist possesses the qualities of God, Truth and Love, sufficiently, every attempt to "obliterate consciousness" will prove powerless. As well might impersonal evil, through its physical personalities, attempt to separate a ray from the sun of the solar system, as to hope to separate man from the source of his being, the Sun of righteousness, to deprive individual man of his name which signifies his spiritual identity.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, [spiritual understanding] and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." (Rev. 2:17).

Jacob was re-named after he had wrestled with and prevailed over "a mortal sense of life, substance,

and intelligence as existent in matter." (S. & H., p. 308). Saul received his new name, Paul, when spiritual light dawned upon him. Zion shall be called by a new name. The "wholly spiritual foundation," or wholly spiritual consciousness, upon which the spiritually illumined are to-day building, (Mary Baker Eddy) is described by Isaiah in the following words:

"And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." (Isaiah, 62:2).

This name is New Jerusalem, the city of our God which cometh "down from God out of heaven." Nothing shall enter this wholly spiritual church, that "worketh abomination or maketh a lie."

Let me again repeat Mrs. Eddy's words:

"If God, who is Life, were parted for a moment from His reflection, man, during that moment there would be no divinity reflected. The Ego would be unexpressed, and the Father would be childless,—no Father." (S. & H., p. 306).

Mrs. Eddy was divinely inspired when she wrote this, therefore I understand that I shall be conscious of my Father, God, the Principle of being, and of every idea in His infinite universe which reflects Spirit. Each entity will be conscious of every other, for all are members of the body of Christ, God.

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

“For the body is not one member, but many. * * *

“If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? * * *

“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him.

“And if they were all one member, where were the body?

“But now are they many members, yet but one body.” (I Cor. 12:12, 14, 17-20).

The last infirmity of evil, “deceived and deceiving” (S. & H., p. 451) would attempt to deprive me of my name. This effort, through my correct understanding of Mrs. Eddy’s teachings, and obedience to her example, and to her injunction to fulfil the law of Love, will prove of no effect. This has been and will continue to be my defense against all the suggestions of so-called theosophy, ecclesiasticism, mesmerism, hypnotism, witchcraft, esoteric magic,—in fact the talking, lying serpent, self-styled mortal man or animal magnetism.

“Spirit names and blesses all. Without natures particularly defined, objects and subjects would be obscure, and creation would be full of nameless offspring,—wanderers from the parent Mind, strangers in a tangled wilderness.” (S. & H., p. 507).

Mrs. Eddy saw in the latter days, which are now upon us, the attempt of impersonal evil through its avenues and agents, physical, finite personalities, to deprive man of his identity and his name. Wisdom bade her protect and defend her name by demanding that it be announced at every church service as author of her book, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," she also requires that her name be given out as the author of her poems when they are sung as hymns or solos. Thus she keeps her name before the public lest we forget that in this age she is the messenger of God to mankind to awaken the world from sin, sickness and death, to the spiritual fact of being, health, holiness and immortality.

Christian Scientists who are to-day building on a "wholly spiritual foundation" will retain and defend their names until the Messiah re-names them. Mrs. Eddy gives the definition of Christian Scientists who have chosen Spirit as their origin and ultimate in these words:

"CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. The representatives of Soul, not corporeal sense; the offspring of Spirit, who, having wrestled with error, sin, and sense, are governed by divine Science; some of the ideas of God beheld as men, casting out error and healing the sick; Christ's offspring." (S. & H., p. 583).

All the arguments of suppositional evil or aggressive mental suggestion which have been brought to bear upon the defenders of Christian Science—the

goal of immortality—to deprive them of their individuality as children of God,—to question their spiritual interpretation of the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy, or to deny them their right to claim their *present oneness* with Principle, eternal Life, have proved ineffectual to turn them back to materiality, or hinder their progress towards immortality. In their warfare against the claim of error they are strengthened by recalling the experience of their beloved Leader, Mrs. Eddy, who says—“The stake and scaffold have never silenced the messages of the Most High. Then can the present mode of attempting this—namely, by slanderous falsehoods, and a secret mind-method, through which to effect the purposes of envy and malice—silence Truth? Never.” (Misc. Writgs., p. 277). Christian Scientists have learned through experience the import of their Leader’s words:

“Falsehood is on the wings of the winds, but Truth will soar above it. Truth is speaking louder, clearer, and more imperatively than ever. Error is walking to and fro in the earth, trying to be heard above Truth, but its voice dies out in the distance. Whosoever proclaims Truth loudest, becomes the mark for error’s shafts. The archers aim at Truth’s mouthpiece; but a heart loyal to God is patient and strong. Justice waits, and is used to waiting; and right wins the everlasting victory.”

(Misc. Writgs., p. 277).

Christian Scientists are demonstrating the truth of their Leader's metaphysical statement:

"Love is especially near in times of hate, and never so near as when one can be just amid lawlessness, and render good for evil."

(Misc. Writgs., p. 277).

They recall the comforting assurance of their Leader's words: "Those only who are tried in the furnace reflect the image of their Father." (Misc. Writgs., p. 278). And these soldiers of Christian Science "take hold of the eternal energies of Truth, and destroy mortal discord with immortal harmony,—the grand verities of being." (Misc. Writgs., p. 97).

Comprehending Truth, the law of Spirit, and my own solemn responsibility as an individual idea, or reflector, demonstrator, or executor of the law of eternal Life, Truth and Love, obeying the teachings, and following the example of my beloved Leader, Teacher and Guide to eternal Life, Mary Baker Eddy, —with her,

"I thunder His law to the sinner, and sharply lighten on the cloud of the intoxicated senses. I cannot help loathing the phenomena of drunkenness produced by animality. I rebuke it wherever I see it. The vision of the Revelator is before me. The wines of fornication, envy, and hatred are the distilled spirits of evil, and are the signs of these times; but I am not dismayed, and my peace returns unto me.

“Error will hate more as it realizes more the presence of its tormentor. I shall fulfil my mission, fight the good fight, and keep the faith.” (Misc. Writgs., pp. 277-278).

Let me conclude my letter by further reference to our revered Leader’s encouraging words :

“Millions of unprejudiced minds—simple seekers for Truth, weary wanderers, athirst in the desert—are waiting and watching for rest and drink. Give them a cup of cold water in Christ’s name, and never fear the consequences. What if the old dragon should send forth a new flood to drown the Christ-idea? He can neither drown your voice with its roar, nor again sink the world into the deep waters of chaos and old night. In this age the earth will help the woman; the spiritual idea will be understood. Those ready for the blessing you impart will give thanks. The waters will be pacified, and Christ will command the wave.”

(Science and Health, p. 570).

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) AUGUSTA E. STETSON.

SPIRITUAL SENSES.

I

There's an eye beyond the human,
That beholdeth only good,
That sees God's vast creation
And man's real brotherhood ;
That looks on things supernal,
Rejoicing in the light
Which revealeth perfect Wisdom,
Omnipotence and might.

2

There's an ear beyond the finite,
Which hears only words of peace ;
Which lists to sweetest harmonies
That never never cease ;
Which hears the constant melody
Of soul reviving Life,
And nothing knows of finite sense,
Of sin and human strife.

3

There's a sense that tastes the real,
And sees that God is good ;
Whose delights are rare unfoldings
Of the blessed Fatherhood ;
Whose silent speech, the thought of God,
Expressed in His idea,
Has sweetest taste of Life and Love,
And never taste of fear.

4

There's a Power, a mighty Presence,
 Which sustains immortal man,
 Which he feels is Life eternal,
 For he knows man ne'er began.
 Forever with the Father,
 He feeleth joy and rest,
 Unfoldeth, as the lily
 On the water's peaceful breast.

5

There's a sense beyond the finite,
 Which inhales God's atmosphere,
 And smells the sweet aroma
 Of Love's flowers ever near;
 Which wanders in His garden,
 Drinking in the perfumes rare,
 And nothing knows of planting,
 Of watering, or of care.

6

Thus seeing, hearing, taste, and smell,
 And feeling, are divine;
 And prayers, like censers' perfumes rise,
 "O Father, we are thine."
 Then, turning from the mortal,
 And gazing on the goal,
 We lose our finite sense of self,
 And find our sense in Soul.

LIFE'S INFINITE SPIRITUAL IDEAS CANNOT BE EFFACED

SEVEN WEST NINETY-SIXTH STREET,

November 2, 1911.

Mr. R———.

My Dear Mr. R———:

I have just replied to a letter from a gentleman whose card is among the practitioners advertised in *The Christian Science Journal*, and I find your name also there as a practitioner.

While your criticism of my position in defending the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy is on a different line of argument from that of my first critic, it nevertheless belongs to the same erroneous conception of genuine Christian Science, or divine metaphysics, as taught me by my Leader and Teacher, Mary Baker Eddy, and contained in the textbook of Christian Science, which for twenty-seven years I have demonstrated in the healing of all manner of disease, physical and mental. Therefore I am immovable in my conviction that both the present teaching and practice of many are a mixture of theosophy, Vedanta philosophy and mental healing on a material basis—a contradiction of Mrs. Eddy's divine metaphysics that "man is not material; he is spiritual." (S. & H., p. 468). Let this departure from Christian Science be known and named for what it really is.

Permit me to quote from your letter these words:

“From a perusal of the pamphlets received from you, allow me to say that I see nothing in them that would establish your claim that you have attained to a superior understanding of the revelation that came to Mrs. Eddy.”

I have not *claimed* to “have attained to a superior understanding of the revelation that came to Mrs. Eddy.” I claim only to have accepted the scientific statement of being and the fundamental facts contained in her writings, and to have demonstrated her teachings during twenty-seven years of association with her. They who to-day are deviating from the spiritual rules of Christian Science as laid down by Mrs. Eddy, and are accepting and practising that which is contrary to the spiritual facts of being, which our beloved Leader has given us in the textbook of Christian Science, and in her other writings, are not Christian Scientists. To these apply the words of Paul to Timothy:

“O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called.” (1st Timothy, 6:20).

and the following from Science and Health:

“It is not wise to take a halting and half-way position or to expect to work equally with Spirit and matter, Truth and

error. There is but one way—namely, God and His idea—which leads to spiritual being.”
(S. & H., p. 167).

All genuine Christian Scientists who have demonstrated divine metaphysics as taught by Mrs. Eddy, claim the right to their steadfast conviction that the teachings of our revered Leader are founded on Christ, Truth, namely, that

“Spirit is infinite; therefore *Spirit is all*. ‘There is no matter’ is not only the axiom of true Christian Science, but it is the only basis upon which this Science can be demonstrated.” (C. S. Journal, Vol. XXVI., p. 697).

You will not question my strict adherence to the rudiments and rules of Christian Science as given by our Leader, Mrs. Eddy, nor should you refuse to acknowledge my right to enter upon the demonstration of my present immortality. You will surely grant this privilege to other Christian Scientists who claim a spiritual understanding of divine metaphysics, viz: that God is the creator of all that is real and eternal, and that man is His image and likeness, and, as our Leader teaches, lives by divine authority. God being the *only* creator, eternal Life, there is no mortal man, no death. My writings are against the efforts which are being made to hold humanity to the belief that matter lives and dies, for this is contrary to Mrs. Eddy’s teaching that there is no mortal mind, no matter.

With many other Christian Scientists I am

opposed to the belief of the so-called carnal mind, that Mary Baker Eddy, the great Leader of Christian Science, the great Teacher that Life is eternal, has died and has ceased to lead her people. Some who are being deceived by the absence of her finite personal presence have lost the life-link and fail to understand that her spiritual consciousness or individuality (not the claim of physical personality) always led, leads now, and will continue to lead all who through spiritual discernment apprehend this spiritual fact,—that individual ideas reflect God, and that there is no other power nor presence. This apprehension will reveal Mary Baker Eddy's divine individual presence, just as Jesus revealed his identity as a reflector of God, divine Mind. Our Leader says: "The ideal man was revealed in due time, and was known as Christ Jesus." (S. & H., p. 338). Christian Scientists claim that in due time the ideal woman will be revealed, and will be known as the individual identity humanly called Mary Baker Eddy. The opposition which follows my declaration that Mrs. Eddy will reappear is described by our Leader in the following words:

"This thought of human, material nothingness, which Science inculcates, enrages the carnal mind and is the main cause of the carnal mind's antagonism." (S. & H., p. 345).

But notwithstanding "The foam and fury of illegitimate living and of fearful and doleful dying" (S. & H., p. 203), for which mortals are strenuously contending, I shall claim my prerogative to defend the

Cause of Christian Science, and my eternal birth-right, my spiritual individuality. I shall defend the teachings of the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, and leave the result to God. By my works I shall be condemned or justified.

I am opposed to the attempt that is being made to hold humanity to the thought of death by publishing obituary notices, by attracting universal thought to associate Mrs. Eddy with Mount Auburn, and by erecting a monument to a mortal belief in the so-called "city of the dead." Mary Baker Eddy never lived nor died in matter. All statements to that effect are contrary to her teachings, and they who are trying to prove the actuality of material existence by efforts to perpetuate the belief of life in matter, by calling the attention of the world to cemeteries and monuments, and by circulating mortal mind's belief that she is dead, are contradicting her scientific statement of being in "Science and Health."

"There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter. All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all." (S. & H., p. 468).

Let me further quote your words:

"Humility and self-effacement will do more to carry forward the redemptive work the revelation imposes than anything we can do, if that is what we are trying to do."

Humility is won by the Christian Scientist only

by standing for Christian Science as taught by our Leader, Mrs. Eddy, by meeting the opposition of the carnal mind in its attempts to hold mankind to human belief which would if possible hush the voice of Truth through Truth's exponents; by "working alone with God;" by preferring ostracism and contumely to the approval of the opposers of immortal selfhood; in fact, it is to endure

"Hatred, scoffing, and abuse,
Rather than in silence shrink
From the truth they needs must think."

Humility is not gained by being popular with the material world, nor by affiliating with those who, while claiming to be Christian Scientists adulterate Truth with belief. Nor is humility attained by being popular with those who are not willing to come out from mortal belief, and wrestle and prevail against the material world, the fleshly mind—evil. Permit me to quote our Leader's words in Misc. Writgs. p. 67—

" 'Thou shalt not commit adultery' in other words, thou shalt not adulterate Life, Truth, or Love,—mentally, morally, or physically. 'Thou shalt not steal'; that is, thou shalt not rob man of money, which is but trash, compared with his rights of mind and character. 'Thou shalt not kill'; that is, thou shalt not strike at the eternal sense of Life with a malicious aim, but shall know that by doing thus thine own sense of Life shall be forfeited."

Whoever testifies to life in matter or who bears witness to the claim that man is mortal is a mouthpiece for error, the lie, the opposer of Truth. Hear the words of our Leader on this point:

“Thou shalt not bear false witness’; that is, thou shalt not utter a lie, either mentally or audibly, nor cause it to be thought.” (Misc. Writgs., p. 67). “Therefore Christian Scientists must bear witness to Truth that ‘man is not material; he is spiritual.’”

(S. & H., p. 468).

The road to humility is attained by knowing Truth, and by willingness to incur the antagonism of all who admit two powers, Life and death, good and evil, Mind and matter, Spirit and flesh. In this resurrection hour Christian Scientists stand on the rock, Christ, in defense of their individual selfhood, or spiritual identity as reflectors of eternal Life, Truth, and Love. This is the cross, the abnegation of material selfhood, which wins humility. I take exception to your statement that

“Self-effacement will do more to carry forward the redemptive work * * * than anything we can do.”

God and His ideas can never be separated nor effaced, and God and His idea, man, is all. The infinite ideas which compose the body of Christ cannot be effaced nor separated from their source, Mind, Spirit, Principle. Mrs. Eddy teaches that

"The image of Spirit cannot be effaced, since its is the idea of Truth and changes not, but becomes more beautifully apparent at error's demise." (S. & H., p. 543).

"* * * we should efface the outlines of disease already formulated in the minds of mortals." (S. & H., p. 175).

"* * * efface the images and thoughts of disease." (S. & H., p. 196).

"* * * nothing can efface Mind and immortality." (S. & H., p. 318).

Christian Scientists should

"* * * cause the error to cease that brough the belief of sin and death and would efface the pure sense of omnipotence." (S. & H., p. 318).

Nowhere in Mrs. Eddy's writings does she teach the effacement of our spiritual selfhood, which is the only real self admitted in Christian Science. This ideal selfhood—our Christ consciousness—is always operating and destroying the false personal sense of man and things. "Jesus as the son of man was human: Christ as the Son of God was divine. This divinity was reaching humanity through the crucifixion of the human,—that momentous demonstration of God, in which Spirit proved its supremacy over matter." (Misc. Writgs., p. 63). In your statement you should differentiate between the material physical self and the real divine selfhood if you would not mislead the

beginner, and disarm him of his spiritual defense against mortal belief, the enemy of good.

Moses was called the meekest man of his time. He won humility by obeying God who commanded him to speak to the children of Israel and say: "I AM hath sent me unto you." (Exodus 3:14). In ignorance of his true selfhood as God's representative, Moses would have effaced himself but God said: "Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." (Exodus 4:12). He became mighty by exercising his individual prerogative to proclaim God's message to the world; he silenced the false sense which shrank from self-abnegation, and exalted his divine self which made him mighty to resist the claim of a power opposed to the one God.

Jesus humbled the human element, or physical personality, by the exaltation of his Christ consciousness. This effacement of material beliefs and the claim of life, truth, intelligence, and substance as existent in matter—not the effacement of Christ Jesus' true selfhood—enabled Jesus to triumph over all mortal mentality and to reappear as the ideal man, thus proving his teaching that man is immortal, never in nor of matter.

"* * * let us put aside material self and sense, and seek the divine Principle and Science of all healing." (S. & H., p. 20).

"* * * the human, material concept, or Jesus, disappeared, while the spiritual self, or Christ, continues to exist in the eternal

order of divine Science." (S. & H., p. 334).

"The eternal Christ, his spiritual selfhood, never suffered." (S. & H., p. 38).

"* * * cherish nothing which hinders our highest selfhood." (S. & H., p. 68).

"The real man being linked by Science to his Maker, mortals need only turn from sin and lose sight of mortal selfhood to find Christ, the real man and his relation to God, and to recognize the divine sonship."
(S. & H., p. 316).

"In divine revelation, material and corporeal selfhood disappear, and the spiritual idea is understood." (S. & H., p. 561).

"Learn this, O mortal, and earnestly seek the spiritual status of man, which is outside of all material selfhood." (S. & H., p. 476).

"Man's genuine selfhood is recognizable only what is good and true. (S. & H., p. 294).

"Hence the human Jesus had a resort to his higher self and relation to the Father, and there could find rest from unreal trials in the conscious reality and royalty of his being,—holding the mortal as unreal, and the divine as real. It was this retreat from material to spiritual selfhood which recuperated him for triumph over sin, sickness, and death."
(No and Yes, p. 36).

Through my willingness to efface false selfhood in defense of Mrs. Eddy's teaching of man's present immortality, against the opposition of the entire world

of believers in the belief of life in matter and the death of matter, my Christ consciousness, my true self, has been and is constantly being exalted with ever-increasing realization of the allness of Mind and its spiritual ideas, and the nothingness and impotence of a so-called mortal mind and its embodiment, sin, sickness and death.

“Like an anvil when beaten upon” I have stood against the attempts to reverse and materialize the teachings of absolute Christian Science as found in our textbook, “Science and Health.” Theosophical suggestions and erroneous theories derived from Oriental religions which teach the absorption of man into Deity, or the “obliteration” and “effacement” of individualities or identities which compose the body of Christ, have so far crept into the ranks of Christian Scientists that the argument for “obliteration” and “self-effacement” has caused many to lose sight of their divine selfhood, or spiritual individuality. Genuine Christian Scientists detect this subtle sophistry of malicious animal magnetism—impersonal evil—and exalt their Christ consciousness.

Resistance to the argument for self-effacement and obliteration has enabled thousands of Christian Scientists in this glorious resurrection hour to “cling steadfastly to God and His idea,” (S. & H., p. 495). Christ, the ideal man, and to their own individual identity or sonship with the Father. They are following the advice of their beloved Leader, to build on “a wholly

spiritual foundation, than which there is no other." (C. S. Journal, Vol. XXVI., p. 697).

You say that "self-effacement will do more to carry on the redemptive work * * * than anything we can do." It is evident that "we" are called upon in this hour to do the works of the Master, to efface the belief of a self apart from God, and to defend our true selfhood. This aggressive mental argument of self-effacement, if listened to and obeyed, would destroy the ability of any Christian Scientist to carry on the "redemptive work" which Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy established, the destruction of sin and death, the belief of life in matter and its consequent—disease and death. Both fought for their divine selfhood as demonstrators or executors of God's law, eternal Life.

Moses and all the prophets contended against the carnality of their age. Jesus struggled to demonstrate his sonship with God, against the brutality of the carnally minded of his generation who would have effaced his divinity—the mental Messiah.

Mrs. Eddy tells us that

"The loss of man's identity through the understanding which Science confers is impossible; and the notion of such a possibility is more absurd than to conclude that individual musical tones are lost in the origin of harmony." (S. & H., p. 217).

After Jesus' final demonstration over the illusion of death, and his reappearance, mortal belief with its subtle argument of belief of life in matter gradually

gained influence over his followers until they lost the chord of Christ, the spiritual animus, allowed their true selfhood to be obscured, and again the world was sunk in the darkness of "chaos and old night."

In the fulness of time Mary Baker Eddy rose to an apprehension of the spiritual facts of being, and began the demonstration of Truth and Love according to the teaching and practice of Christ Jesus. Like the master Metaphysician, she was a brave combatant for her spiritual individuality, and met the same antagonism of the carnal mind. The warfare against the material world, the fleshly mind and all evil, which was fought by Jesus—the masculine representative of the fatherhood of God—and by Mary Baker Eddy—the feminine representative of the motherhood of God—does not suggest self-effacement, but the necessity for a mighty struggle to defend one's divine selfhood which will alone efface the belief of a self apart from Spirit.

Christian Science teaches that there is but *one* self, and that man is one with God whose power and presence he must finally manifest. Let me further quote from your letter the following:

"If you will allow me to be frank with you I think I can point out the way to peace and happiness."

My dear Mr. R., why do you assume that I have *not* found the way of peace and happiness? Twenty-seven years ago Mrs. Eddy pointed out to me the way

of Life which leads to peace and joy in Truth and Love. I have found it a straight and narrow way which has led me to an understanding of eternal Life as a constant, conscious possession which I am striving to demonstrate. I have walked many years with my beloved and revered Leader and Teacher, Mary Baker Eddy, and am to-day led by her "gentle presence" as sensibly as when she seemed to be corporeally present with us. Her resurrection as she continually rises in the realm of scientific being and demonstrates over all false mentality, is *my* resurrection and is also the resurrection of all her followers who are looking for her in Mind, Spirit, and who refuse to admit the illusion of life or death in matter. This understanding of spiritual Life as *All* imparts peace, love and joy, and the strength of the quickening Spirit. The happiness, health and spiritual love which the Christian Scientist to-day possesses is the result of obedience to the law of God, unswerving determination to conquer all belief of life in matter, and a faith in the power of spiritual understanding to demonstrate the allness of Mind and to reveal its identities. To the carnal mind the genuine Christian Scientist appears aggressive, but mortals must learn and admit that Christ has again come to finish his work,—to accomplish the total destruction of incarnate error.

There was never more divine self-assertion than in Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy, who did their mighty works by claiming and proclaiming their royal

birthright,—dominion over the material world, the carnal mind and all that opposes God and His Christ.

You say :

“You have made some mistakes along with your successes, and while you are entitled to defend the latter you are not justified in defending the former.”

I am neither defending nor justifying personal sense. In fact I am not considering false personality, and it should be obvious to all that the stand which I am taking compels abnegation of material sense, and humiliation of the human. I am *willing* to incur the bitter opposition of those who are contending for the reality of matter. Had another risen to defend Mrs. Eddy's teaching as to the nothingness of mortal mind and its material embodiment and substanceless universe ; had another declared for the allness of Spirit and its ideas, and fearlessly crossed swords with the “enemy of Good,” malicious animal magnetism, so-called, I should have been spared the crucifixion of personal sense, but I would have lost the glory of the cross.

I have been driven to the demonstration of Christian Science, the fulfilling of the law of Love, which is Life. I waited prayerfully and patiently for someone to come forth, and uncover and denounce the false teachings which are mistaken for genuine Christian Science. But when no one appeared, I obeyed my Leader's instructions to protect the seamless garment of Truth.

My dear Mr. R., I think you are just and kindly, and will recognize that with my convictions I could not do otherwise than I have done. The very stones would cry out if I were not faithful to my Leader's teachings and her written injunctions to me to press forward in the battle of Truth against error, and with divine Love to protect the Cause of Christian Science from being obscured by theosophical vagaries, ecclesiasticism, and all theories based upon the belief of matter as sentient substance. These are arrayed against the Lord and His Christ, and the Christian Scientist must watch that the pure spiritual sense is not clouded by their materially mental influence. Christian Scientists must be willing to suffer with Christ, to come out from the world of materiality and be separate, that they may reveal their immortal individual identity as sons and daughters of God.

It should be apparent to all that I have no contention with the statements of absolute Christian Science. All who understand divine metaphysics know that my writings are in accord with those of Mrs. Eddy in her textbook, "Science and Health." Material personality and mere human opinions do not enter into the question. I am adhering strictly to Principle and the rules of demonstrable Christian Science. I do not believe in the reality of the claim of evil, in the claim of malicious mortal mind to power or presence, or in the illusion of sin, sickness, and death.

"Had Jesus believed that Lazarus had lived or died in his body, the Master would

have stood on the same plane of belief as those who buried the body, and he could not have resuscitated it." (S. & H., p. 75).

Jesus said: "* * * whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die"—see death as real. I claim to have gained only what every other Christian Scientist should understand and strive to demonstrate—the spiritual fact of being,—that man never lived or died in matter, since Spirit and its infinite ideas are *All*. I am driven by an impelling force to declare this spiritual fact, and am invulnerable to the shafts of impersonal evil aimed by those who would silence this conviction.

If this contention for the truth of being contradicts the statement of those who are contending for the reality of beliefs, there should be no dispute over it. Let each be free to declare for his convictions, and let God justify himself. This is not a matter of personal following, nor of obedience to personal opinion, but is a defense of divine metaphysics as taught by Mary Baker Eddy.

Genuine Christian Scientists, under the law of Spirit, yield to the operation of eternal Life, Truth, and Love, and are fulfilling the law of Love. So-called Christian Scientists admit a material law, yield to its suggestions, and finally appeal to Cæsar (so-called material law) for protection. With all Mrs. Eddy's true followers who are panoplied in Truth and Love, the invincible armor of the Christian Scientist, I shall continue to follow my Leader, Mrs. Eddy, in this "line

of light and battle," to reflect His law of Love to humanity, until the voice of error which proclaims the reality of death cannot find a witness, and man in the image of his Maker appears.

May the faithful combatant for immortality be always alert to defend himself against the claim of "aggressive mental suggestion * * * And to his duty to God, to his Leader, and to mankind."

(Church Manual p. 42.)

Then the love which is unselfed, which leaves all for Christ, and blesses all by loving *more* will obliterate and efface all that is unlike Good, and reveal God in the face of our brother man.

Very sincerely yours,

AUGUSTA E. STETSON.

COULD YE NOT WATCH?

Could ye watch with me one hour?"

—Jesus.

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Brave wrestler for the prize of Life Eternal,
Treading alone earth's rugged paths to light,
Art thou so weary of thy self denials,
So tired of thy crosses and thy trials?
List! to the voice of Christ across the sea!
Can'st thou not watch one hour more with me?

Canst thou not suffer, calm in tribulation,
Knowing that Christ Himself before thee goes,
Leading thee to thy heavenly habitation,
Beyond this storm-tossed dream of pain and woes?

O soldier, sleep not on thy sword, but watch thee
One little hour, until thy Christ appears;
And the "well done"—ye faithful, blessed are ye
Who steadfast onward press,—shall hush thy fears.

There is no royal road to heavenly treasure;
The pathway does not lead through human pride;
But meekness, faith, and love, must fill the measure
We humbly offer to the Glorified.

O patient watcher with thy heavenly Leader,
One little hour longer pray and wait!—
And thou shalt find, the meek and earnest pleader,
Faith crowned, triumphant, opens heaven's gate.