MESSAGE TO THE MOTHER CHURCH: BOSTON, MASS., JUNE, 1901

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MARY BAKER G. EDDY

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JUNE, 1901.

BY

MARY BAKER G. EDDY,

PASTOR EMERITUS AND AUTHOR OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES.

Seventeenth Thousand.

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Message.

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BELOVED BRETHREN: To-day I extend my heart-and-hand-fellowship to the faithful, to those whose hearts have been beating through the mental avenues of mankind for God and humanity; and rest assured you can never lack God's outstretched arm so long as you are in His service. Our first Communion in the New Century finds Christian Science more extended, more rapidly advancing, better appreciated, than ever before, and nearer the whole world's acceptance.

To-day you meet to commemorate in unity the life of our Lord, and to rise higher and still higher in the individual consciousness most essential to your growth and usefulness; to add to your treasures of thought the great realities of Being, which constitute mental and physical perfection. The baptism of the Spirit, and the refreshment and invigoration of the human in communion with the Divine have brought you hither.

All that is true is a sort of necessity, a portion of the primal reality of things. Truth comes from a deep sincerity that must always characterize heroic hearts; it is the better side of man's nature developing itself.

As Christian Scientists you seek to define God to your own consciousness, by feeling and applying the nature and practical possibilities of divine Love: to gain the absolute and supreme certainty that Christianity is now what Christ Jesus taught and demonstrated—health, holiness, immortality. The highest spiritual Christianity in individual lives is indispensable to the acquiring of greater power in the perfected science of healing all manner of diseases.

We know the healing standard of Christian Science was and is traduced by trying to put into the *old* garment the new-old cloth of Christian healing. To attempt to twist the fatal magnetic element of human will into harmony with Divine power, or to substitute good words for good deeds, a fair seeming for right being, may suit the weak or the worldly

who find the standard of Christ's healing too high for them. Absolute certainty in the practice of Divine Metaphysics constitutes its utility, since it has a divine and demonstrable Principle and rule;—if some fall short of 'Truth, others will attain it, and these are they who will adhere to it. The feverish pride of sects and systems is the death's-head at the feast of Love, but Christianity is ever storming sin in its citadels, blessing the poor in spirit and keeping peace with God.

What Jesus' disciples of old experienced, his followers of to-day will prove, namely, that a departure from the direct line in Christ costs a return under difficulties; darkness, doubt, and unrequited toil will beset all their returning footsteps. Only a firm foundation in Truth can give a fearless wing and a sure reward.

The history of Christian Science explains its rapid growth. In my Church of over 21,631 communicants (2,496 of whom have been added since last November) there spring spontaneously the higher hope, and increasing virtue, fervor, and fidelity. The special benediction of our Father-Mother God

rests upon this hour: "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."

GOD IS THE INFINITE PERSON.

We hear it said the Christian Scientists have no God because their God is not a person. Let us examine this. The loyal Christian Scientists absolutely adopt Webster's definition of God, "A Supreme Being," and the Standard dictionary's definition of God, " The one Supreme Being, self-existent and eternal." Also, we accept God, emphatically, in the higher definition derived from the Bible, and this accords with the literal sense of the lexicons: "God is Spirit," "God is Love." Then, to define Love in Divine Science we use this phrase for God-divine Principle. By this we mean Mind, a permanent, fundamental, intelligent, divine Being, called in Scripture, Spirit, Love.

It is sometimes said, "God is Love, but this is no argument that Love is God; for God is light, but light is not God." The first proposition is correct, and is not lost by

the conclusion, for Love expresses the nature of God; but the last proposition does not illustrate the first, light being matter loses the nature of God, Spirit, deserts its premise and expresses God only in metaphor, therefore it is illogical, and the conclusion is not properly drawn. It is logical that because God is Love, Love is divine Principle; then Love as either divine Principle or Person stands for God—for both have the nature of God. In logic the major premise must be convertible to the minor.

In mathematics four times three is twelve, and three times four is twelve. To depart from the rule of mathematics destroys the proof of mathematics; just as a departure from the Principle and rule of Divine Science destroys the ability to demonstrate Love, according to Christ, healing the sick; and you lose its susceptibility of scientific proof.

God is the author of Science—neither man nor matter can be. The science of God must be, is, *Divine*, predicated of Principle and demonstrated as divine Love; and Christianity is divine Science, else there is no Science, and no Christianity.