MESSAGE TO THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST: OR MOTHER CHURCH, BOSTON, JUNE 15, 1902

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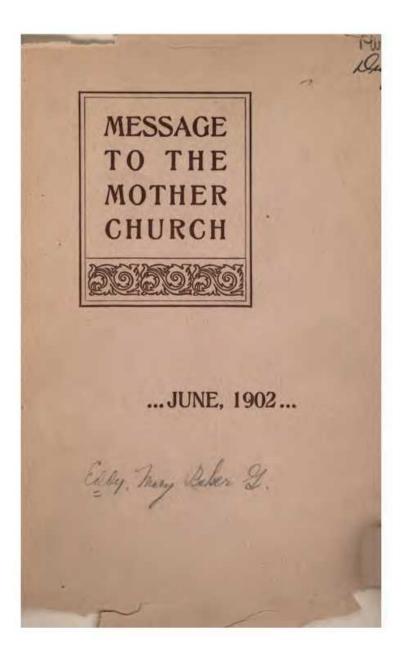
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MARY BAKER G. EDDY

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TO

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, scientist,

OR

MOTHER CHURCH,

BOSTON, JUNE 15, 1902.

BY

REV. MARY BAKER G. EDDY,

PASTOR BMERITUS AND AUTHOR OF

"SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES."

Tenth Thousand.

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Message.

THE OLD AND THE NEW COM-MANDMENT.

BELOVED BRETHREN: Another year of God's loving providence for his people in times of persecution has marked the history of Christian Science. With no special effort to achieve this result, our church communicants constantly increase in number, unity, steadfastness. Two thousand seven hundred and eighty-four members have been added to our church during the year ending June, 1902, making total 24,278 members; while our branch churches are multiplying everywhere and blossoming as the rose. Evil, though combined in formidable conspiracy, is made to glorify God.

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The Scripture declares, "The wrath of man shall praise Him, and the remainder thereof He will restrain."

Whatever seems calculated to displace or discredit the ordinary systems of religious beliefs and opinions wrestling only with material observation, has always met with opposition and detraction; this ought not so to be, for a system that honors God and benefits mankind should be welcomed and sustained. While Christian Science, engaging the attention of philosopher and sage, is circling the globe, only the earnest, honest investigator sees through the mist of mortal strife this day-star, and whither it guides.

To live and let live, without clamor for distinction or recognition; to wait on divine Love; to write truth first on the tablet of one's own heart,—this is the sanity and perfection of living, and my human ideal. The Science of man and the universe, in contradistinction to all error, is on the way, and Truth makes haste to meet and to welcome it. It is purifying all peoples,

religions, ethics, and learning, and making the children our teachers.

Within the last decade religion in the United States has passed from stern Protestantism to doubtful liberalism. God speed the right! The wise builders will build on the Stone at the head of the corner; and so Christian Science, the little leaven hid in three measures of meal,-ethics, medicine, and religion,-is rapidly fermenting, and enlightening the world with the glory of untrammeled truth. The present modifications in ecclesiasticism are an outcome of progress; dogmatism, relegated to the past, gives place to a more spiritual manifestation, wherein Christ is Alpha and Omega. It was an inherent characteristic of my nature, a kind of birth-mark, to love the church; and the church once loved me. Then why not remain friends, or at least agree to disagree, in love,-part fair foes. I never left the church, either in heart or in doctrine; I but began where the church left off. When the churches and I round the gospel of grace, in the circle of love,

we shall meet again never to part. I have always taught the student to overcome evil with good, used no other means myself; and ten thousand loyal Christian Scientists to one disloyal, bear testimony to this fact.

The loosening cords of non-Christian religions in the Orient are apparent. It is cause for joy that among the educated classes, Buddhism and Shintoism are said to be regarded now more as a philosophy than as a religion.

I rejoice that the President of the United States has put an end, at Charleston, to any lingering sense of the North's halfhostility to the South, thus reinstating the old national family pride and joy in the sisterhood of states.

Our nation's forward step was the inauguration of home rule in Cuba,—our military forces withdrawing, and leaving her in the enjoyment of self-government under improved laws. It is well that our government, in its brief occupation of that pearl of the ocean, has so improved her public