

# **AN EXPOSURE OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE**

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An Exposure of Christian Science by T. G. Moulton

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T. G. MOULTON

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*Review of the book*



# An Exposure of Christian Science

## CHAPTER I

### THE ORIGINS OF A FALSE RELIGION

THE distinctive feature of Christian Science is its quiet but resolute opposition to the Christian faith. Writers and lecturers who discuss from within the Churches the steadily advancing propaganda of Mrs. Eddy's disciples usually adopt a tone of deferential, almost humble, inquiry. They treat the Scientists as a body of sincere though misguided believers, from whose teaching we have all much to learn, and whose natural enemies are the doctors rather than the clergy. The deadly errors of Christian Science are not understood or are veiled in a cloud of rhetoric. Careless readers or listeners are left with the



impression that this form of "healing" may be a modern revival of the miraculous gifts known in the Apostolic Age or of those faith-cures recorded in the fourth century by Athanasius, Ambrose, Chrysostom, and Augustine. We are reminded that George Fox and John Wesley believed that the power of God was manifested in the healing of physical diseases in answer to prayer, and the assumption is that the Christian Scientists are the most truly prayerful people of our time. Nor is it wonderful that mistakes should be made, for there is much in their services that might deceive the very elect. But there is one thing that should give pause to complacent, admiring critics who speak from Church Congress platforms or in parish halls, or who propose to found imitation societies within the Church of England. The Cross has no place in the worship of the Christian Scientists; the Holy Communion is unknown to them. Here, on the very threshold, they separate themselves from the company of faithful people.

We are told that when the allies entered Peking after the war of 1860, many Chinese converts surrounded the palanquins of the French and English leaders, and claimed a

silent fellowship by crossing themselves on the breast and brow. "The tears came into my eyes as I watched them," wrote the French diplomat, Baron Gros, "but there was something sweet in these tears." There, in the citadel of heathenism, the Protestant Lord Elgin and the Roman Catholic Baron Gros felt themselves linked by a sacred symbol to the Christians of China. The ancient Portuguese cathedral of Peking was deserted and half-ruined, but those who had no language of fellowship could give the greeting of the Cross. Christian Scientists cannot respond to that sign. If St. Paul were amongst us to-day, would he not class them with those "of whom I have told you before and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the Cross of Christ"?

I propose in this chapter to give a brief summary of the history of Christian Science in America and England.

Mrs. Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy, who claims to be the founder of Christian Science, is regarded by her followers as an inspired and divinely sent personage. In the *Christian Science Journal* for 1895 the following sentence appears:—

"Surely the people of the coming cen-

turies will vie with each other in doing homage to the Rev. Mary Baker Eddy, the greatest character since the coming of Jesus Christ; and her book, 'Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures,' will go down to history as a part of the sacred writings of the ages."

Mrs. Eddy was a pupil of the healer P. P. Quimby, who enjoyed a widespread celebrity in America about the middle of last century. Quimby was a watchmaker by trade, a man of no education, but with a taste for mesmerism. He gave up his business and settled in Portland as a "healer," starting from this fundamental principle: "I deny disease as a truth, but admit it as a deception." In 1862 Mrs. Eddy came to him for treatment. In a paper of the time she tells how in less than a week she had recovered from extreme physical weakness and nervous depression, and was able to climb the 182 steps of the City Hall Dome.

"P. P. Quimby," wrote his grateful patient, "stands upon the plane of wisdom with his truth. Christ healed the sick, but not with juggling or with drugs; as the former speaks as never man before spake, and heals as never man healed since Christ,