

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HISTORY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649195435

Christian science history by Septimus J. Hanna

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SEPTIMUS J. HANNA

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SCIENCE HISTORY**

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**A STATEMENT OF FACTS RELATING TO THE AUTHORSHIP
OF THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE TEXT-BOOK, "SCIENCE
AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES,"**

BY
SEPTIMUS J. HANNA

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PUBLISHING SOCIETY,
95 FALMOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASS.
1899.

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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HISTORY.

PREFATORY REMARKS.

THE purpose of this booklet is to present to all fair-minded people a few facts in contradistinction to falsehoods as to the life and work of the Rev. Mary Baker G. Eddy, the author of the Christian Science text-book, "SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES," and the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science.

Many years ago, John Gay, an English poet, penned these truthful lines:—

He, who would free from malice pass his days,
Must live obscure, and never merit praise.

No great moral or religious reformer, in ancient or modern times, has escaped the truth of this poetic sentiment.

Mrs. Eddy, as the greatest religious reformer of modern times, has, in some measure, shared the fate of her predecessors. As in other cases, so in her case, adverse criticism or opposition have come from two classes—those who entirely misapprehend the scope and purpose of the reformation, or those who, having sought a knowledge of Christian Science, as did some of old time, for the loaves and fishes, and having been disappointed in carrying out their selfish ends, have turned with the rage of envy and malice upon her who desired to be their benefactor, and (vainly) seek to injure her.

Her early struggles against the unworthy and selfish, and the trials, difficulties, and persecutions, growing out of a misunderstanding of her mission, during the formulatory period of her labors, have become a matter

of well-known history. The many thousands, nevertheless, both within and without the ranks, who are cognizant of the wonderful and beneficent results—even thus far—of her self-sacrificing labors, have done her meet homage, and every day the number is increasing.

We have but to point to her book "Pulpit and Press," published in 1895, now in its seventh edition, in part corroboration hereof.

This book abounds in extracts from the press, according to Mrs. Eddy fair and sincere recognition of her achievements and her rightful place in history. I briefly cull from two or three papers, as a fair index to all.

The *Chicago Inter Ocean* said:—

In 1866, while living in Lynn, Mass., Mrs. Eddy (then Mrs. Glover) met with a severe accident and her case was pronounced hopeless by the physicians. There came a Sunday morning when her pastor came to bid her good-bye before proceeding to his morning service, as there was no probability that she would be alive at its close. During this time she suddenly became aware of a divine illumination and ministration. She requested those with her to withdraw, and reluctantly they did so, believing her delirious. Soon, to their bewilderment and fright, she walked into the adjoining room, "and they thought I had died, and that it was my apparition," she said.

From that hour dated her conviction of the principle of divine healing, and that it is as true to-day as in the days when Jesus of Nazareth walked the earth. "I felt that the divine Spirit had wrought a miracle," she said, in reference to this experience. "How, I could not tell, but later I found it to be in perfect Scientific accord with the divine law." From 1866 to 1869, Mrs. Eddy withdrew from the world to meditate, to pray, to search the Scriptures.

From the *Boston Sunday Globe*:—

Mrs. Eddy applied herself, like other girls, to her studies,

though perhaps with an unusual zest, delighting in philosophy, logic, and moral science, as well as looking into the ancient languages, Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

Her last marriage was in the spring of 1877, when, at Lynn, Mass., she became the wife of Dr. Asa Gilbert Eddy. He was the first organizer of a Christian Science Sunday School, of which he was the superintendent, and later he attracted the attention of many clergymen of other denominations by his able lectures upon Scriptural topics. He died in 1882. Mrs. Eddy is known to her circle of pupils and admirers as the editor and publisher of the first official organ of this sect. It was called the *Journal of Christian Science*, and has had great circulation with the members of this fast-increasing faith.

In recounting her experiences as the pioneer of Christian Science, she states that she sought knowledge concerning the physical side in this research through the different schools of allopathy, homœopathy, and so forth, without receiving any real satisfaction. No ancient or modern philosophy gave her any distinct statement of the science of mind healing. She claims that no human reason has been equal to the question.

And she also defines carefully the difference in the theories between faith cure and Christian Science, dwelling particularly upon the terms belief and understanding, which are the key words respectively used in the definitions of these two healing arts. . . . Mrs. Eddy believes that "the laborer is worthy of his hire," and, moreover, that he deserves to have a home and family of his own. Indeed, one of her motives in buying so large an estate was that she might do something for the toilers, and thus add her influence toward the advancement of better home life and citizenship.

From the *Jackson Patriot*, Jackson, Mich.

In a previous article we have referred to cyclic changes that came during the last quarter of preceding centuries. Of our remarkable nineteenth century not the least eventful circumstance is the advent of Christian Science. That