

**THE PASSING OF
MARY BAKER
EDDY; PP. 1-66**

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BY
Edward C. Farnsworth
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THE PASSING OF MARY BAKER EDDY

VOICING her sincere belief, Mrs. Eddy once declared that already the child was born who never would suffer physical death. This was in the early days of Christian Science when the faithful were few indeed. Long afterward her student hearer expressed to the present writer the profound and lasting impression his teacher's prophesy had made in him.

His opinion has ever been that Mrs. Eddy referred not to herself, but, in fact, to some disciple of a time, more enlightened and not far distant, when the truths of Christian Science, active in the hearts of the majority of mankind, would create conditions favorable to this full and final demonstration.

As for the teacher, she now has passed even as the king or the beggar in every age and country of the world. Length of days has been hers, a not

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unusual compensation of Nature to women whose early and middle life has been marked by ill health, or chronic invalidism. She has passed as kind Nature would have us all pass, not painfully through the breaking of wheel, spring, or balance, but rather by the gradual wearing out and cessation of the whole machinery of the body.

Whether or not Mrs. Eddy in her foretelling referred to herself is debatable. Certainly very many advanced Scientists looked for the unusual to mark the earthly end of their revered leader. Questioners, not in the sacred circle of believers, have met the knowing look and evasive reply intended to arouse rather than satisfy curiosity, while Mrs. Eddy's own attitude of late years has, at least in appearance, been one of preparation.

Like the mystics of all lands and times who have left the arena for the cell, the city for the forest, or the mountain cave, she retires to a solitude penetrated only by the proven few,

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those necessary to herself, and to her supervision of Christian Science work. Her followers rear in the metropolis a costly temple, but she goes not there to worship. There is the "mother's room" with its costly appointments, a room which she never occupies. The great body of believers may not approach too near her retreat, much less may they enter on any pretext. In her closed carriage she threads the city ways as one apart from the multitude. In short she, as far as may be, bars herself from the shafts of those twin devils of her creed, malicious animal magnetism and ignorant animal magnetism.

Could it have been arranged, she would have become as inaccessible as the Dalai-Lama, who in the Himalayas protected himself from the inharmonious vibrations of unbelief. An almost mythical being was he until English arms, penetrating the mountain fastness of Tibet, arrived at the holy and forbidden city of Lhasa.

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Behind her four walls Mrs. Eddy was held either dead or imbecile by thousands in the realms of untruth, and so to them she was unless they accepted the life, the truth, she offered in her various written revelations. Foolish ones and blind, they did not comprehend that in the chosen calm of her Concord or Newton home she, as far as possible, would overcome those gigantic and most formidable of earthly errors, physical body, and physical death.

The faithful held that in her success, Christian Science would be wholly vindicated; but should she fail, and that was a possibility, then it were wiser and better that nothing be said but that the age is as yet too densely ignorant for Truth to come into shining. However, Christian Scientists are not all of them wise, or even tactful; some one will talk when silence would be golden.

Now, at the time to be non-committal, a certain Mrs. Stetson has her

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hopes and beliefs, and the courage, if not the prudence, to speak with no uncertain voice. So, because a once prominent and influential, but now deposed member of the Mother Church of Boston, she is pounced upon; she must endure the bark and bite of the vigilant watchdog of the sheepfold.

Let us see what authority "in Science" Mrs. Stetson has for saying that Mother Eddy, in her true body, will yet appear for the edification of the disciples, and the teaching of the multitude.

Science and Health avers that man, the everlasting child and thought of God, is above and outside of material body. Material man came into this material world not by the will of God, nor yet by his permission, for in fact God knows nothing of one who is actually non-existent, a mere appearance due to mortal mind which, at his conception, cunningly counterfeited the real man, the eternal thought of eternal Mind.