

The Vision of Julia Ward Howe

The following remarkable vision of Julia Ward Howe was published in the July 18, 1908 *Christian Science Sentinel*, Vol. X, No. 46. Its title, *But Their Eyes Were Holden*, no doubt refers to the general public's unawareness that the very condition Mrs. Howe saw as a possibility for the future was actually an accomplished fact through Christian Science—that the unnumbered thousands healed and regenerated in Christian Science constituted the “vast host,” seen in her vision:

One night recently I experienced a sudden awakening. I had a vision of a new era which is to dawn for mankind and in which men and women are battling, equally, untidily, for the uplifting and emancipating of the race from evil. I saw men and women of every clime working like bees to unwrap the evils of society, and to discover the whole web of vice and misery and to apply the remedies and also to find the influences that should best counteract evil and its attending suffering.

There seemed to be a new, a wondrous, ever-permeating light, the glory of which I cannot attempt to put into human words—the light of the newborn hope and sympathy blazing. The source of this light was born of human endeavor, immortal purpose of countless thousands of men and women who were equally doing their part in the worldwide battle with evil, and whose energy was bended to tear the mask from error, crime, superstition, greed, and to discover and apply the remedy.

I saw men and women, standing side by side, shoulder to shoulder, a common lofty and indomitable purpose lighting every face with a glory not of this earth. All were advancing with one end in view, one foe to trample, one everlasting good to gain. I saw them advancing like a mighty army, laden with the fruits of their research, their study, their endeavor, in this battle with the powers of darkness, and ready to tear vice from the earth, to strip away all of selfishness, greed, and rapine. Then I seemed to see them stoop down to their fellows and to lift them higher, higher, and yet higher. Men and women, a vast host, whom none could number, working untidily, equally, with superhuman energy, all for the extirpation of the blackness of vice and for the weal of the race.

And then I saw the victory!

All of evil was gone from the earth. Misery was blotted out. Mankind was emancipated and ready to march forward in a new era of human understanding, all-encompassing sympathy, and ever-present help. The era of perfect love, of peace passing understanding. (Originally printed in *The Boston Sunday American* of June 28, 1908.)

In Julia Ward Howe's vision, the veil which obscures the ever-present millennium was lifted—as *Mary Baker Eddy had already, in actual practice, been lifting it for forty-two years.*