

THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

“The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light, to go by day and night. He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.” (Exodus)

Always is this presence of God with us, this pillar of cloud by day, and of fire by night, to guide us on the way and lead us into safety.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life;” and “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

It is the business of everyone calling himself a Christian Scientist, and more particularly those who advertise themselves as practitioners, to maintain this *light of the Christ* in consciousness — a pillar of cloud by day, and of fire by night. Then whoever sights this light and steers his course by it, will come into the Kingdom of God, or the haven of Soul, and receive the benefits which shall accrue to him — holiness, wholeness, healing, and salvation.

The Christian Scientist is like a lighthouse keeper. The lighthouse keeper’s duty, and his sole duty, is to keep the light burning brightly in the lighthouse. He has nothing else to do, but it is imperative that he do this one thing. No matter what the weather may be, be it stormy or fair, be it sleet, snow, or rain, be it monsoon, typhoon, tornado, or hurricane, be it a blizzard or whatnot, it is all one to the lighthouse keeper; for as has been said, his sole duty is to keep the light burning brightly in the lighthouse, and this quite regardless of what is going on outside. No matter what may be happening to the ships on the ocean, no matter whether it be a *Queen Mary*, a Chinese sampan, a tug, a five-masted sailing vessel, or a small dory, whether one or all of them be in trouble, liable to drift on the rocks, or already on the rocks, no matter what the peril, whether it be that the ship is out of control, a fire, or whatever it may be, quite irrespective of it all, *it is the business of the lighthouse keeper to keep the light gleaming, and to do nothing else.* He must not leave his post to try to succor some ship, its passengers, crew, or cargo, lest in so doing the light become dimmed, or mayhap go out, and so endanger not only that particular ship, but other ships which may be steering their course by the light as they pass through those dangerous waters. He must keep the *light alight.*

The lighthouse may be situated on the bleak shores of the Aleutian Islands where ships seldom pass, and so “the light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not.” Then comes a ship passing through those treacherous waters. The navigator seeking the light, sights it and steers his course by it. At that moment the light shining in the darkness is no longer uncomprehended, and the mariner instantly receives the benefits. The mariner, as it were, sets up the “treatment,” if it may be so termed. This continues so long as the mariner is navigating those waters, but when the ship has passed through them

and into safety, the mariner, finding himself in quiet waters, no longer requires the light, but turns from it and steers by his own compass, or by his own knowledge of those safe familiar waters, thus stopping the "treatment," even as he originally set it up.

The mariner has his work to do also. He has his nautical almanac, a volume tried and true, thoroughly to be relied upon, for it has been compiled by those who have preceded him over the course. It charts the Scylla and Charybdis which endanger navigation, the shoals and shallows, the reefs and rocks, the adverse currents, or whatsoever makes for peril at sea. It likewise charts the lighthouse which is always near by, this "pillar of cloud by day, and of fire by night," to guide him on his journey.

Let it be repeated that the Christian Scientist, and more particularly the practitioner, has his sole duty to perform also, and that is *to keep the light of the Christ burning brightly in his consciousness* at all times, day and night, under whatever circumstances. Whether awake or asleep he must do this. Moreover, he must do this quite irrespective of what kind of problem may be presented to him. To him who thus maintains the presence of God, or the Christ in consciousness, it is of no importance whatsoever what may be the matter, how serious the matter, or how long it has been the matter; it is of no importance who the patient is, of what race, or language, or where he is, no matter whether he has a cold or a cancer, is alive or dead, or whether it be physical, financial, mental, moral, or domestic, it is all the same to the practitioner, for his sole duty is to keep the light of the Christ ablaze in his consciousness. He can do no more than this; and if he does this faithfully and well, as did the Master, then whoever turns to him for assistance, will be healed of whatsoever ails him, no matter what; and will find himself safe in the haven of Soul, or in the Kingdom of God, well, strong, healthy, happy, and prosperous. As Jesus said, "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

The light of the Christ has always been shining. Jesus sighted it and recorded it by word of mouth to his disciples and followers, and for nineteen hundred years afterward the light shone into the darkness of the human consciousness, but, except intermittently, the darkness comprehended it not. Then came Mary Baker Eddy, who received this revelation, or sighted the light of the Christ again, and recorded it plainly in *Science and Health*. Like the light in the lighthouse situated on the Aleutian Islands, it may be that the Christ-light may at times shine in the darkness and the darkness comprehend it not, but the time will surely come when some mariner, some seeker after Truth, or so-called patient, will sight the light. He, too, has his nautical almanac, (the Bible and *Science and Health*, the Word of God,) tried and true also, for it records the experience of those who have traversed the course before him into the Kingdom of God. In this nautical almanac, setting forth the true way and the experience en route to and into the Kingdom of God by those who have gone before on this adventurous journey from sense to Soul, he will find that at all times, even in the midst of danger, this light of the Christ is always at hand shining brightly, ready to guide him into safety, if he will but follow the plainly charted course over which those others have passed before him. Furthermore, he learns to avoid the traps and snares which have been set. No longer does he have to go through the crucifixion, no longer does he have to go into the Lion's den, nor into the burning fiery furnace; no longer does he have to starve in the wilderness, or a thousand and one things which have threatened to overthrow those others who have preceded him into the Kingdom of God. All these experiences have been met and overcome and passed through safely, and profiting by those experiences, he may avoid those temptations, should they again confront him.

It is really the patient who sets up the “treatment” when he sights the light and steers his course by it, for like the light in the lighthouse, the light must be kept burning brightly quite regardless of whatever may be going on. And when the patient has come safely into holiness, wholeness, health, etc., the patient himself stops the “treatment,” even as he started it, and stops it automatically when he turns from that light, and elects to find his way under his own light of the Christ. But the light continues to shine just the same.

The course is clearly marked now, and our gratitude to those who have gone before us and charted this hitherto unknown course should know no bounds. If we will steer our course by the light which we have sighted, no matter what the trouble, no matter who it may be, or who or what may be concerned, and no matter how impossible may seem the situation or problem to be met, overcome, healed, or saved, the solution of it will surely be brought about and manifested unto the world.

“And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning. So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents. At the commandment of the Lord the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the Lord they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents. And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the Lord, and journeyed not. And so it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the Lord they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the Lord they journeyed. And so it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and that the cloud was taken up in the morning; whether it was by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed. Or whether it were two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed. At the commandment of the Lord they rested in their tents, and at the commandment of the Lord they journeyed: they kept the charge of the Lord, at the commandment of the Lord by the hand of Moses.” (Numbers)