

# FOUNDATION WORK

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1 As the pioneer of Christian Science I stood alone in  
this conflict, endeavoring to smite error with the  
3 falchion of Truth. The rare bequests of Christian Science  
are costly, and they have won fields of battle from which  
the dainty borrower would have fled. Ceaseless toil, self-  
6 renunciation, and love, have cleared its pathway.

The motive of my earliest labors has never changed.  
It was to relieve the sufferings of humanity by a sanitary  
9 system that should include all moral and religious reform.

It is often asked why Christian Science was revealed to  
me as one intelligence, analyzing, uncovering, and annihi-  
12 lating the false testimony of the physical senses. Why was  
this conviction necessary to the right apprehension of the  
invincible and infinite energies of Truth and Love, as con-  
15 trasted with the foibles and fables of finite mind and ma-  
terial existence.

The answer is plain. St. Paul declared that the law  
18 was the schoolmaster, to bring him to Christ. Even so  
was I led into the mazes of divine metaphysics through  
the gospel of suffering, the providence of God, and the  
21 cross of Christ. No one else can drain the cup which I  
have drunk to the dregs as the Discoverer and teacher of  
Christian Science; neither can its inspiration be gained  
24 without tasting this cup.

1 The loss of material objects of affection sunders the  
dominant ties of earth and points to heaven. Nothing  
3 can compete with Christian Science, and its demonstra-  
tion, in showing this solemn certainty in growing freedom  
and vindicating "the ways of God" to man. The abso-  
6 lute proof and self-evident propositions of Truth are im-  
measurably paramount to rubric and dogma in proving  
the Christ.

9 From my very childhood I was impelled, by a hunger  
and thirst after divine things, — a desire for something  
higher and better than matter, and apart from it, — to  
12 seek diligently for the knowledge of God as the one great  
and ever-present relief from human woe. The first spon-  
taneous motion of Truth and Love, acting through Chris-  
15 tian Science on my roused consciousness, banished at once  
and forever the fundamental error of faith in things ma-  
terial; for this trust is the unseen sin, the unknown foe, —  
18 the heart's untamed desire which breaketh the divine com-  
mandments. As says St. James: "Whosoever shall keep  
the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty  
21 of all."

Into mortal mind's material obliquity I gazed, and stood  
abashed. Blanched was the cheek of pride. My heart  
24 bent low before the omnipotence of Spirit, and a tint of  
humility, soft as the heart of a moonbeam, mantled the  
earth. Bethlehem and Bethany, Gethsemane and Calvary,  
27 spoke to my chastened sense as by the tearful lips of a  
babe. Frozen fountains were unsealed. Erudite systems  
of philosophy and religion melted, for Love unveiled the  
30 healing promise and potency of a present spiritual *afflatus*.

1 It was the gospel of healing, on its divinely appointed  
3 human mission, bearing on its white wings, to my apprehension, "the beauty of holiness," — even the possibilities of spiritual insight, knowledge, and being.

6 Early had I learned that whatever is loved materially, as mere corporeal personality, is eventually lost. "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it," saith the Master. Exultant hope, if tinged with earthliness, is crushed as the  
9 moth.

12 What is termed mortal and material existence is graphically defined by Calderon, the famous Spanish poet, who wrote, —

What is life? 'T is but a madness.

15 What is life? A mere illusion,  
Fleeting pleasure, fond delusion,  
Short-lived joy, that ends in sadness,  
Whose most constant substance seems  
18 But the dream of other dreams.