

# THE PRECIOUS VOLUME

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1 The first edition of my most important work, Science  
and Health, containing the complete statement of  
3 Christian Science, — the term employed by me to express  
the divine, or spiritual, Science of Mind-healing, was pub-  
lished in 1875.

6 When it was first printed, the critics took pleasure in  
saying, "This book is indeed wholly original, but it will  
never be read."

9 The first edition numbered one thousand copies. In  
September, 1891, it had reached sixty-two editions.

12 Those who formerly sneered at it, as foolish and ec-  
centric, now declare Bishop Berkeley, David Hume, Ralph  
Waldo Emerson, or certain German philosophers, to have  
been the originators of the Science of Mind-healing as  
15 therein stated.

Even the Scriptures gave no direct interpretation of the  
scientific basis for demonstrating the spiritual Principle  
18 of healing, until our heavenly Father saw fit, through the  
Key to the Scriptures, in Science and Health, to unlock  
this "mystery of godliness."

21 My reluctance to give the public, in my first edition of  
Science and Health, the chapter on Animal Magnetism,  
and the divine purpose that this should be done, may  
24 have an interest for the reader, and will be seen in the fol-

1 lowing circumstances. I had finished that edition as far  
as that chapter, when the printer informed me that he  
3 could not go on with my work. I had already paid  
him seven hundred dollars, and yet he stopped my work.  
All efforts to persuade him to finish my book were in  
6 vain.

After months had passed, I yielded to a constant conviction that I must insert in my last chapter a partial  
9 history of what I had already observed of mental malpractice. Accordingly, I set to work, contrary to my inclination, to fulfil this painful task, and finished my copy  
12 for the book. As it afterwards appeared, although I had not thought of such a result, my printer resumed his work at the same time, finished printing the copy he had on  
15 hand, and then started for Lynn to see me. The afternoon that he left Boston for Lynn, I started for Boston with my finished copy. We met at the Eastern depot in  
18 Lynn, and were both surprised, — I to learn that he had printed all the copy on hand, and had come to tell me he wanted more, — he to find me *en route* for Boston, to give  
21 him the closing chapter of my first edition of Science and Health. Not a word had passed between us, audibly or mentally, while this went on. I had grown disgusted  
24 with my printer, and become silent. He had come to a standstill through motives and circumstances unknown to me.

27 Science and Health is the textbook of Christian Science. Whosoever learns the letter of this book, must also gain its spiritual significance, in order to demonstrate Christian  
30 Science.

- 1 When the demand for this book increased, and people
- 3 were healed simply by reading it, the copyright was in-  
fringed. I entered a suit at law, and my copyright was  
protected.