

Preface

A CERTAIN apothegm of a Talmudical philosopher 1
suits my sense of doing good. It reads thus: "The 3
noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting 3
charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a
man to dispense with alms."

In the early history of Christian Science, among my 6
thousands of students few were wealthy. Now, Christian
Scientists are not indigent; and their comfortable fortunes
are acquired by healing mankind morally, physically, 9
spiritually. The easel of time presents pictures — once
fragmentary and faint — now rejuvenated by the touch
of God's right hand. Where joy, sorrow, hope, disap- 12
pointment, sigh, and smile commingled, now hope sits
dove-like.

To preserve a long course of years still and uniform, 15
amid the uniform darkness of storm and cloud and
tempest, requires strength from above, — deep draughts
from the fount of divine Love. Truly may it be said: 18
There is an old age of the heart, and a youth that never
grows old; a Love that is a boy, and a Psyche who is
ever a girl. The fleeting freshness of youth, however, 21
is not the evergreen of Soul; the coloring glory of

1 perpetual bloom; the spiritual glow and grandeur of
a consecrated life wherein dwelleth peace, sacred and
3 sincere in trial or in triumph.

The opportunity has at length offered itself for me to
comply with an oft-repeated request; namely, to collect
6 my miscellaneous writings published in *The Christian
Science Journal*, since April, 1883, and republish them
in book form, — accessible as reference, and reliable as
9 old landmarks. Owing to the manifold demands on my
time in the early pioneer days, most of these articles
were originally written in haste, without due preparation.
12 To those heretofore in print, a few articles are herein
appended. To some articles are affixed data, where these
are most requisite, to serve as mile-stones measuring the
15 distance, — or the difference between then and now, —
in the opinions of men and the progress of our Cause.

My signature has been slightly changed from my
18 Christian name, Mary Morse Baker. Timidity in early
years caused me, as an author, to assume various *noms
de plume*. After my first marriage, to Colonel Glover
21 of Charleston, South Carolina, I dropped the name of
Morse to retain my maiden name, — thinking that other-
wise the name would be too long.

24 In 1894, I received from the Daughters of the American
Revolution a certificate of membership made out to Mary
Baker Eddy, and thereafter adopted that form of signa-
27 ture, except in connection with my published works.

The first edition of Science and Health having been 1
copyrighted at the date of its issue, 1875, in my name
of Glover, caused me to retain the initial "G" on my 3
subsequent books.

These pages, although a reproduction of what has
been written, are still in advance of their time; and are 6
richly rewarded by what they have hitherto achieved for
the race. While no offering can liquidate one's debt of
gratitude to God, the fervent heart and willing hand are 9
not unknown to nor unrewarded by Him.

May this volume be to the reader a graphic guide-
book, pointing the path, dating the unseen, and enabling 12
him to walk the untrodden in the hitherto unexplored
fields of Science. At each recurring holiday the Christian
Scientist will find herein a "canny" crumb; and thus 15
may time's pastimes become footsteps to joys eternal.

Realism will at length be found to surpass imagination,
and to suit and savor all literature. The shuttlecock of 18
religious intolerance will fall to the ground, if there be
no battledores to fling it back and forth. It is reason for
rejoicing that the *vox populi* is inclined to grant us peace, 21
together with pardon for the preliminary battles that
purchased it.

With tender tread, thought sometimes walks in memory, 24
through the dim corridors of years, on to old battle-
grounds, there sadly to survey the fields of the slain and
the enemy's losses. In compiling this work, I have tried 27

1 to remove the pioneer signs and ensigns of war, and to
retain at this date the privileged armaments of peace.

3 With armor on, I continue the march, command and
countermand; meantime interluding with loving thought
this afterpiece of battle. Supported, cheered, I take my
6 pen and pruning-hook, to "learn war no more," and with
strong wing to lift my readers above the smoke of conflict
into light and liberty.

MARY BAKER EDDY

CONCORD, N. H.
January, 1897