

Address delivered by James P. B. Hyndman from Station WHAP, New York City, on Monday, April 27, 1926, 9.15 P.M., on Americanism. Subject:

## WHAT IS MATTER?

God *is* a Spirit, and they that worship him must  
worship *him* in spirit and in truth. - Christ Jesus  
(John 4:24)

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Under the title, "Matter, A Riddle, the editor of the *New York Sun*, of April 27, 1926, comments upon and analyzes the most recent findings of the physicists regarding the essential nature of matter. After devoting a large part of a column to the discussion of atoms and electrons, and speaking of the powers and properties of matter, this editor comes to the conclusion that we are still very far away from the answer to the question, What is matter? Indeed, he continues: "Students are beginning to doubt that protons and electrons, the acknowledged basis of matter, have real substance." The editor concludes thus: "According to this view, nothing exists in the universe except electricity — and perhaps ether,"

The modern physicists are not the first to declare the unreality of matter. Sir William Ramsay, the foremost physicist of his generation — the latter part of the nineteenth century and the opening years of the twentieth — came to the conclusion, after having given his theory of the atom, molecule, electron and ion to the world, that we have no grounds for believing that matter is real, and no proof to offer for its reality. Many other philosophers before Sir William's day declared for the unreality of matter, for example, Bishop Berkeley; yet they did not push their research beyond the negative, and so failed to point to a reality in place of that which they had demolished. They were iconoclasts, but not builders.

Because matter, in very fact, has no existence whatever, the conclusion is inevitable, that eventually the whole world will awake to the truth, and learn, that the universe is wholly mental, the reflection of infinite Mind, or God, and is without sin, disease and death, which belong wholly to the belief that matter exists and has life and intelligence. This is the glorious teaching of Christian Science, as discovered and founded by Mary Baker Eddy, the author of its textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, and as demonstrated to-day by her faithful student, Augusta E. Stetson, C.S.D., both in her writings, in her noble defense of Mrs. Eddy's teachings, in her occupancy of the post to which Mrs. Eddy assigned her, until the Leader of Christian Science, like Christ Jesus, shall prove her teaching, by coming forth victor over death and the tomb, and by her own marvellous Christly life, maintained in the face of a period of persecution unparalleled in the annals of Christian history.

Throughout all the writings by Mary Baker Eddy, and those by Augusta E. Stetson, C.S.D., Mrs. Eddy's student, the absolute unreality of matter, in the light of the absolute supremacy of Spirit, is iterated, reiterated, and proven on the basis of divine metaphysics. The foundation of this divine Science is given in the following words of Mary Baker Eddy:

Spirit is infinite, therefore *Spirit is all*, "There is no matter" is not only the axiom of true Christian Science, but it is the only basis upon which this Science can be demonstrated. (*Miscellany*, p.357.)

At the first appearing of Christ, through Jesus, two thousand years ago, the great Teacher clearly taught that he, as the representative true, or real man, the Elder Brother in the spiritual family of God, was the Son of God. For this, he was crucified. Christ Jesus was essentially spiritual. To him, Spirit, God, was the only Substance, the only Source of being, the only Creator of man (spiritual man), and the only universal Father. His mentality was spiritual; his spirit partook of the things of God, and could not assimilate the things of the flesh; his mental gaze was continually fixed on the supernal verities of the Kingdom of heaven, and as constantly turned away from the fleeting shadows of earth. Heaven was his home; eternity the span of his existence; God, his Father; and Spirit, the Source of his life. What was matter to him? He said:

That which is born of the flesh (matter) is flesh (matter); and that which is born of the Spirit (substance) is spirit (substantial, living, eternal.)  
(John 3:6)

Again, he said:

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh (matter) profiteth nothing. The words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life. (John 6:63)

The character, thought, and life of Christ Jesus were the very opposite of those of the world. He appeared in a world of seeming matter, flesh, given over wholly to the belief of life in matter, or flesh, and the indulgence of the carnal appetites which are the inevitable result of this false belief. The appetites of flesh had no place in the economy of Jesus' nature. So pure was even his seeming flesh, that it was susceptible of a degree of transfiguration, on the mount, which caused his very raiment to shine, with the transcendent light of Spirit. He said of himself, "I am the light of the world." Matter is not light, flesh is not light, but darkness. Mind is the only source of light — the divine Mind, or God, Spirit, and man, spiritual man, is His image and likeness, His reflection. Matter, flesh, appeareth not in this spiritual reflection. The flesh of Jesus, which made him appear as a man, obscured, in a degree, the real or

spiritual man, or the Christ whom he represented; but so great was Christ Jesus' spiritual understanding, so firm was his grasp upon Spirit, that he was able, on numerous occasions, to burst through the veil of matter, flesh, through spiritual understanding alone, and dissipate its unreal shadows of sin, disease and death. His marvellous demonstrations on the Mount of Transfiguration, enabled the disciples to pierce the thick veil of human flesh, or the belief of life in matter, and to perceive somewhat of the eternal man of God's creating, the substance individuality of Moses and Elias, and the shining spiritual form of Jesus, transfigured by Spirit, almost to the point of utter escape from the flesh, or matter. This final solution, or full escape from flesh, in the form of a man, Jesus accomplished after the resurrection, at the ascension. His promise, which he left with his disciples, was, that he would come again. At his second appearing, which is imminent, Christ will overcome and escape from the fleshly embodiment of woman; and thus will be revealed, in finality, the nothingness of flesh, or matter, in its entirety as man and woman, and the substance reality of spiritual man, both male and female in one individual compound idea, as the reflection image and likeness of a compound Principle, God, Spirit, Life, Truth and Love.

Why was opposition to the teaching of Christ Jesus so intense and bitter, and why was this animas wholly directed at his assertion that he was the Son of God? For this one reason, he was put to death, "because he calleth himself the Son of God," and "being a man, he maketh himself God." Why does the same opposition appear to-day, against the teaching of Christian Science, that "man is not material; he is spiritual." (*Science and Health*, p. 468), and that "There is no matter," (*Miscellany* p. 357)? Because the so-called sons of men, guided by a sense material, having no knowledge of the fact that, in their reality, they are sons of God, Spirit, can discern nothing but matter, with its pleasures and its pains, its sickness, suffering, sin, and death. Just as one, who is awakened forcibly from a nightmare, fights his rescuer, so the human, or carnal mind fights the Christ Mind, as soon as the Christ Mind begins to dissipate the shadows of the mind of flesh, matter.

Matter is illusion. God is spirit, not matter; and God, Spirit, did not create matter. In fact, matter has no creator, and is simply a false belief, or illusion, a fixed hallucination in the mind of mortals, who, in belief, live and die in matter; yet all the while, they are, in their reality, sons of God, Spirit, and as such, their life is eternal in God, entirely independent of matter, and apart from it. The editor of the *Sun*, in a moment of seeming bewilderment, admits that we are \*far away\* from the solution of the riddle of matter. This riddle will never be solved, until it is understood and admitted, that there is no matter, since God, Spirit, is All-in-all.

There is a seeming mental, mortal or flesh mind force in the world, which opposes itself to Christ and his teaching. This so-called mental force, which, in reality, has no power, since all power belongs to God, Spirit, acts upon the ignorance of the aggregate carnal mentality, or embodied fleshly mind, of the world, causing it to perpetuate itself in seemingly endless cycles of genera-

tions, to sin, suffer, and finally to die. This is the story of matter, but it is an untrue, unreal story, or, in the words of Christ Jesus, a lie, and the father of it. God, Spirit, created the universe, including man, in His, God's image and likeness, the image of eternal Life and Love. He did not re-create it in the likeness of matter, sin and death. The mental force, which plays thus upon the ignorance and credulity of the world, or flesh man, is met and opposed by the Christ Mind, the Mind of Spirit, which is the Source of all harmony and blessedness, immortality and bliss, and which never ceases to reflect God. Paul understood his oneness with God, Spirit, eternal Life, Truth and Love, when he sent, ringing down the ages, these words;

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things  
present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall  
be able to separate us from the love of God, which is  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:38 & 39)

This is the war which appeareth in the world to-day, and which will finally result in the destruction of matter, or rather, the dream of matter, as real—since matter does not exist—and the supremacy of Spirit, God, will end the mental war now threatening, and will set free from bondage to the flesh, matter, all who have conquered the belief of life, substance and Intelligence in matter, and have put on the Mind of Christ, and who, through spiritual sight, will behold a new heaven and a new earth, wherein is no more sin, (flesh), sickness, nor death, for the former flesh thoughts have passed away, and there is no more death. The universe, including, man, will then be discerned in its true light, as spiritual, harmonious, and immortal.

James P. B. Hyndman