

Address delivered by James P. B. Hyndman, from Station WHAP, 9 West 96th Street, New York City, on August 4, 1926 on Americanism. Subject:

AUGUSTA E. STETSON, C.S.D. HER PLACE IN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

(Revelation 1:17 & 18)

In the *New York Sun* of July 29, 1926, in the radio section, there appeared a letter from Mr. Edgar G. Gyger, Christian Science Committee on Publication, which is as follows:

To the Editor of the Sun: — Sir: An article in the Sun to-day captioned "Last Night on WHAP" contains the statement that this station is "the mouthpiece of the branch of the Christian Science Church under the auspices of Mrs. Augusta E. Stetson." Please permit me to say that Mrs. Stetson and others identified with the management of station WHAP are not affiliated with the Christian Science Church, and their activities are in no way authorized by it. The relations of Mrs. Stetson with the Christian Science movement terminated with her dismissal from The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass., in 1909.

(Signed) Edgar G. Gyger
Christian Science Committee on Publication

July 27, 1926

This statement emanates from the Christian Science Board of Directors, in Boston, Massachusetts, who are in charge of the material organization. Mrs. Stetson does not represent the material organization, from which her Leader and Teacher, Mary Baker Eddy, led her out in 1909. This fact is known by everyone who is at all conversant with affairs pertaining to Christian Science.

Humanity cannot be deprived of the spiritual treasures, which are being poured forth upon the earth to-day through genuine Christian Science, as taught by Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy. It is true that Augusta E. Stetson, C.S.D., the one and only student of Mrs. Eddy, who has followed her Leader into the realm of "wholly spiritual" building, or the "4th dimension" of Spirit — it is true that Mrs. Stetson is not in the material organization, nor in any way connected with the material organization, having emerged out of it, at

her Leader's, Mrs. Eddy's, request.

Under date of February, 1909, Mrs. Eddy wrote an article to the Christian Science Journal (Vol. xxvi, p. 696) entitled, "The Way of Wisdom." This letter was addressed to her "dear brethren in New York," as the following extract from it indicates:

When my dear brethren in New York desire to build higher —to enlarge their phylacteries and demonstrate Christian Science to a higher extent --- they must begin on a wholly spiritual foundation than which there is no other, and proportionably estimate their success and glory of achievement only as they build upon the rock of Christ, the spiritual foundation. This will open the way, widely and impartially, to their never-ending success — to salvation and eternal Christian Science.

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.

(C.S. Journal, Vol. xxvi, p. 696.)

Mrs. Stetson and the Trustees of her church replied to this call of their Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, to "begin" to build "on a wholly spiritual foundation." A letter was addressed to Mrs. Eddy, by Mrs. Stetson and the Board of Trustees of her church, First Church of Christ, Scientist, New York City, entitled, "Where Shall Wisdom be Found?" Extracts from this letter follow:

The demonstration of our church is the direct result of your instructions obeyed, and we shall continue to follow as you forever lead on in "The Way of Wisdom." You are continually pouring into our lamps the oil of consecration, and we are drinking of the wine of inspiration which you provide. The word has gone forth, "Hurt not the oil and the wine."

Having completed our demonstration of the church militant, we will strive more earnestly to attain the higher understanding, which will reveal the Church Triumphant, where "Spirit is infinite; therefore *Spirit is all.*"

The "spiritual modesty" with which you have "crowned The Mother Church building" has been and ever will be our abiding inspiration in building upon "a wholly spiritual foundation."

Glorious, indeed, is it to have the horizon of our spiritual vision thus widened by virtue of your vigils on the watch-tower of Zion.
(C.S. Journal, Vol. xxvi, p. 697)

Regarding organization, Mrs. Eddy wrote:

Despite the prosperity of my church, it was learned that material organization has its value and peril, and that organization is requi-

site only in the earliest periods in Christian history. After this material form of cohesion and fellowship has accomplished its end, continued organization retards spiritual growth, and should be laid off --- even as the corporeal organization deemed requisite in the first stages of mortal existence is finally laid off, in order to gain spiritual freedom and supremacy. (*Retrospection and Introspection*, p. 45)

Mrs. Eddy saw that Mrs. Stetson had reached in Christian Science the point of emergence from material organization, and was ready to begin the "wholly spiritual" demonstration of Christ's Christianity. Throughout a long period of years, Mrs. Stetson had worked out and completed the demonstration of her church, First Church of Christ, Scientist, New York City, not only in its seeming material structure, symbol of the "church militant," but in all the activities of her Christian Science work. She and her practitioners had healed every disease known to materia medica, many cases in the last stages having been pronounced by doctors as beyond all human aid. Mrs. Stetson built up her organization through her teaching and her great executive ability, reinforced by her deep spirituality and her marvelous understanding of Christian Science, as taught her by her Leader and Teacher, Mary Baker Eddy — an organization which was composed of spiritually minded students, consecrated to the work of Christ.

Mrs. Eddy, whose spiritual vision, as Mrs. Eddy said, "began where that of others stopped," saw that the next step of progress was emergence out of material organization into a "wholly spiritual" consciousness. This same rule holds in the study of mathematics, which Mrs. Eddy constantly uses as a symbol of Christian Science. When the pupil has mastered the four primitive fundamental rules of mathematics — addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division — he is advanced to the study of fractions, then to trigonometry, geometry and Euclid, and finally he reaches the "4th dimension" of mathematics, in calculus. Mrs. Eddy says, in *Science and Health*, page 209:

Material substances or mundane formations, astronomical calculations, and all the paraphernalia of speculative theories, based on the hypothesis of material law or life and intelligence resident in matter, will ultimately vanish, swallowed up in the infinite calculus of Spirit.

This is the teaching of Christ Jesus, and Mrs. Eddy says it is the "high goal" of Christian Science. The emergence out of the material, or fleshly organization, a so-called matter body and a carnal mind, which is opposed to God, is a pre-requisite to the final understanding of man, as the son of God, made in the image and likeness of God, Spirit, eternal Life and Love. This is not accomplished through *death*, or the *destruction* of the *human* body, but through *spiritualization* of thought.

Thus, Mrs. Stetson was called, by her Leader and Teacher, Mary Baker

Eddy, to advance beyond the four simple fundamental rules of spiritual mathematics, and to enter the "4th dimension" of Spirit, which those who have not mastered the primitive rules of material organization, either of a so-called flesh body or of a so-called material church, cannot understand. Hence, the bitter opposition to Mrs. Stetson of those who remain in material organization; and hence, also, her spiritual conviction of the correctness of her teaching, through her understanding, expressed in demonstration, of the spiritual guidance of her Teacher, Mary Baker Eddy; and Mrs. Stetson is immovable in her determination to follow her Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, as she, Mrs. Eddy, demonstrates Christian Science to the point of overcoming the "last enemy," the mental illusion called "death," as did Jesus the Christ.

In 1886 Mrs. Eddy sent Mrs. Stetson to New York City to "establish the Christianity of Christian Science" in that city. How well and faithfully Mrs. Stetson has fulfilled her appointed mission is attested in the following letter from her Teacher and Leader, Mary Baker Eddy:

I am fixed more and more in my confidence in your strength to stand, and "having done all to stand." If you will pardon me I will tell you one of my pet names for you when speaking of you to my household, "*my war horse*."

Oh, dearest, precious child, how much you have done and will yet do for our cause, none knows but me. (*Vital Issues in Christian Science*, p. 374: facsimile letters of Mary Baker Eddy.)

Mrs. Eddy is keenly awake, throughout her writings, as was Christ Jesus, to the fact that there is, in Christian Science, a supreme goal, to be striven for and attained. Mrs. Eddy writes:

As soldiers of the cross we must be brave, and let Science declare the immortal status of man, and deny the evidence of the material senses, which testify that man dies. (*Unity of Good*, p. 39.)

The fundamental and all-inclusive Principle of Mrs. Eddy's teaching, throughout her great book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, and her other writings, is the fact that God, Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, eternal Life and Love, is the only Creator of man, and man — *spiritual* man, not the so-called *flesh* man — is the idea, reflection, or image of this divine infinite Principle, or Cause. This is the supreme *goal* in Christian Science, which Mrs. Eddy maintains in consciousness. Mrs. Eddy writes:

The discoverer of Christian Science finds the path less difficult when she has the high goal always before her thoughts, than when she counts her footsteps in endeavoring to reach it. (*Science and Health*, p. 426.)

This teaching is unquestionably at variance with the notion of a material man, or a material universe. Jesus constantly exhorted his disciples to deny themselves — in other words, to repudiate their mortal sense of their own and others' material existence, and to be "born again." This "new birth" he insisted upon; and he allowed no concessions to interfere with its accomplishment. He said, "Ye must be born again." This teaching, which Christ Jesus characterized metaphorically as his "flesh and blood," and of which he said, no man could attain the Kingdom of Heaven, unless he ate and drank thereof — this teaching aroused the antagonism of the carnal, or fleshly mind, which Christ Jesus set at nought. The great Leader of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, who understands Christ's teaching, was arriving at a point where she was to enter the demonstration over the belief of life in matter, flesh, and, like Christ Jesus, was to lay down her (material) life, or the so-called material sense of life, that she might take it again — might take her real, spiritual life, or individuality as a child of God, as did Christ Jesus, the Wayshower to eternal Life. Understanding, as she did, that "The achievement of this ultimatum of Science, complete triumph over death, requires time and immense spiritual growth," (*Unity of Good*, page 43) and also knowing that her disappearance from the arena of mortal vision would be misinterpreted by the materially minded as "death," until the time when she should have worked out this mighty problem, and would reappear as spiritual idea, in strict accordance with the divine Principle of Christian Science, the great Leader of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, constantly exhorted her student, Augusta E. Stetson, C.S.D., to watch with her Leader, Mary Baker Eddy. Mrs. Eddy assured Mrs. Stetson that

. . . by adhering to His lonely, present highest idea of love you will hold to its Principle and be safe. O! I thank Him, *love* Him, and love *my* Augusta.

Lovingly and everlastingly yours,
M. B. Eddy

(*Vital Issues in Christian Science*, p. 381: facsimile letters of Mary Baker Eddy.)

Mrs. Eddy also writes:

Until the majesty of Truth should be demonstrated in divine Science, the spiritual idea was arraigned before the tribunal of so-called mortal mind, which was unloosed in order that the false claim of mind in matter might uncover its own crime of defying immortal Mind. (*Science and Health*, p. 564.)

These spiritual instructions from her Leader and Teacher, Mary Baker

Eddy, were Mrs. Stetson's guide and inspiration, from the time when Mrs. Eddy called her and her spiritually minded students out of material organization. Mrs. Stetson was convinced, both by her own spiritual understanding, as unfolded in her consciousness by her Teacher, Mary Baker Eddy, and also by Mrs. Eddy's loving counsel and continued spiritual guidance, — Mrs. Stetson was convinced that the final enemy to be met and overcome by Christian Science is so-called "death." Throughout every page of Mrs. Eddy's writings, the great Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, denounces death, and upholds the allness of Life, or God, and the inevitable consequent of this truth, namely, the immortality of man, spiritual man, in the image and likeness of God, eternal Life and Love. Thus, Pilate's momentous question, "What is Truth?" is answered in Christian Science. For this basic fact, which is the "4th dimension" in Christian Science, Mrs. Stetson has valiantly stood up to the present hour, and will continue to stand unflinchingly. She maintained from the first that her Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, had not died; that Mrs. Eddy had entered upon her final demonstration in Christian Science, and that, in God's time, her great Leader and Teacher, Mary Baker Eddy, would reappear, as spiritual idea, "without sin (flesh) unto salvation," and would be recognized by her followers, who had attained to spiritual understanding and spiritual vision. While Mrs. Eddy's belief — flesh — was still in the tomb, at the request of Mr. Hamilton Holt, editor of *The Independent*, Mrs. Stetson wrote an article for his magazine, entitled, "The Demonstration of Mary Baker Eddy," which was published in *The Independent Magazine*, New York, January 26, 1911.

Some of Mrs. Stetson's writings, in defense of her Leader's teaching, appeared in the magazines and daily press of the period of Mrs. Eddy's passing beyond mortal sight. Since then, Mrs. Stetson has written the following books, which are a record of her work in Christian Science, and the experiences through which she has passed, in order to uphold genuine Christian Science, as demonstrated by Christ Jesus, and taught by Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science. These books are all published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City.

Vital Issues in Christian Science, with Facsimile Letters of Mary Baker Eddy; a book of 405 pages.

Reminiscences, Sermons, and Correspondence, Proving Adherence to the Principle of Christian Science; being a history of Mrs. Stetson's work in Christian Science from 1884 to 1913. A book of over 1,200 pages.

Sermons and Other Writings on Christian Science; a book of over 1,300 pages.

Numerous smaller books and pamphlets, including "Poems," "My Spiritual Aeroplane," and "Greetings to the Dear Children."

Mrs. Stetson began, in 1920, a campaign of education, through the Press of various American cities, on the subject of Christian Science, which she still carries on, and will continue to do so. Mrs. Stetson, up to the present hour,

has expended nearly \$300,000 in this work. From the time of her first contact with Mrs. Eddy, Mrs. Stetson has recognized the fact that man, in his spiritual individuality as a child of God, is *necessarily* and *essentially* immortal. Therefore Mrs. Stetson's prime motive in undertaking and maintaining this great work of spiritual education and in giving genuine Christian Science to the world, thus ushering in the new spiritual era, is her spiritual impulsion to *fulfill* the request of her Leader and Teacher, Mary Baker Eddy, to testify to the unreality of "death" and the allness of Spirit, Life, God, until Mary Baker Eddy shall reappear as spiritual idea, as did Christ Jesus. This work is essential in Christian Science, in order that the final blow to the carnal, or mortal mind, which ends in so-called death, shall be dealt by Christ, at his second appearing, which is imminent. St. Paul characterizes *death* in plain language, as "the last enemy."

In an article of *immense spiritual illumination*, by Mrs. Stetson, which appeared in the press of New York and other American cities, in June, 1926, Mrs. Stetson *protested* against the celebration of the *death* of Thomas Jefferson, as proclaimed by President Calvin Coolidge, explaining that Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy clearly taught the *unreality* of death. In this article Mrs. Stetson declares that the founders of our Republic, Washington, Jefferson, Monroe and their compatriots live, and obviously maintain, in this Nation, against the onslaughts of the dragon, or flesh man, their divine principles, upon which, under the inspiration of Christ, they founded and established the American Federal Republic. This *spiritual* fact, or phenomenon, is discerned by those who have *spiritual* sight and understanding, and, through them, obedience to its divine demands is enforced upon the Nation, in order that the purpose for which the American Federal Republic was formed, namely, to reveal the Kingdom of God, "on earth as it is in Heaven," and to usher in the visible eternal reign of Christ on earth, shall be accomplished.

The work thus outlined has occupied Mrs. Stetson's entire time for the past 17 years, or since Mrs. Eddy rose beyond mortal vision. Mrs. Stetson has now reached the point of spiritual understanding where she knows that the second appearing of Christ is imminent. She freely proclaims this conviction over the air, by means of the radio, through Station WHAP, exhorting the whole Protestant field to *awake*, and watch for Christ. The Holy Bible declares that the coming of the Son of man will be "in the air," or a *mental, spiritual* illumination; and this spiritual *phenomenon* will be and is *incomprehensible* to those who remain in material organization, or the belief of life in matter, flesh, which both Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy *denounced*. God is *eternal Mind*; but, to reckon Him, God, as matter, or flesh, is *pantheism, pagan idolatry, and blasphemy*. Also, to reckon man, who was made in the image and likeness of God, Spirit, in terms of matter, or flesh, is equally pantheistic, pagan, and blasphemous. Christ Jesus rebuked his dull disciples, who could not see beyond the fleshly form, with the words, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" (Luke 24:25, & 26).

During the past eight years, Mrs. Stetson, and her Oratorio Society of the New York City Christian Science Institute, composed of three hundred of her spiritually minded students, who are musicians, have rendered seven concerts. The first of these was given in Aeolian Hall, the next three in Carnegie Hall, and, the capacity of this auditorium having been exceeded, the last three were presented in the Metropolitan Opera House, which was also filled to its capacity. Attendance at these concerts was by invitation only, the object being to reach those who might be ready to hear and to profit by spiritual music, composed by Mrs. Stetson and her students, and sung with spiritual understanding. Of music, Mrs. Eddy writes:

Beloved brethren, have no discord over music. Hold in yourselves the true sense of harmony, and this sense will harmonize, unify, and unself you. Once I was passionately fond of material music, but jarring elements among musicians weaned me from this love and wedded me to spiritual music, the music of the Soul. . . . Music is more than sound in unison. . . .

I want not only quality, quantity, and variation in tone, but the unction of Love. Music is divine. Mind, not matter, makes music; and if the divine tone be lacking, the human tone has no melody for me. (*Message to The Mother Church for 1900*, p. 11.)

For several months, Mrs. Stetson's student, and conductor of her Oratorio Society, John Warren Erb, has arranged and supervised the rendering of the musical program of Radio Station WHAP.

Mrs. Stetson has freely given copies of her books to all libraries of any size or importance throughout America, Great Britain, Europe, and even in far-off Japan, and has received grateful acknowledgments of these gifts. She has done this in order that the marvelous Gospel of Christian Science, as taught by Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy, shall be given to the whole world, in its *spiritual, demonstrable* power, in the destruction of the illusions called sin, disease and death. Thus, Mrs. Stetson has not only fulfilled the request of her Teacher, Mary Baker Eddy, to "establish the Christianity of Christian Science in New York City," but she has extended its establishment to all the world.

The *end* of the *seeming universal* reign of unrighteousness, known as sin, disease, and death, or the *carnal* or *fleshly* mind, called the dragon, the belief of life in matter, or flesh, is fast approaching, under the impulsion of the second appearing of Christ, which is imminent. John's vision in the Apocalypse must and shall be fulfilled:

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was

no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, . . .

And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne [Christ] said, Behold, I make all things new. (Revelation 21:1 & 2, 4 & 5)

I repeat, humanity cannot be deprived of the spiritual treasures which are being poured forth upon the earth to-day, through genuine Christian Science, as taught by Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy. It is true that Augusta E. Stetson, C.S.D., the one and only student of Mary Baker Eddy, who has followed her Leader into the realm of "wholly spiritual" building, or the "4th dimension" of Spirit — Mrs. Stetson is *not* in *material* organization, nor in *any* way connected with material organization, having emerged out of it at her Leader's request. Mrs. Stetson and her students are working now from the wholly Christly basis of spiritual building, which is healing the sick, --- the understanding which reckons man in Science as the image and likeness of God, Spirit, and not as a fleshly mortal. In *Science and Health* we read:

Man is not material; he is spiritual. (*Science and Health*, p. 468:15)

Many years ago, I took class instruction with my teacher, Augusta E. Stetson, C.S.D. I was usher in her church, First Church of Christ, Scientist, New York City at the time Mrs. Eddy called Mrs. Stetson out from material organization to "begin" to build "on a wholly spiritual foundation." I was among Mrs. Stetson's students who were ready to begin, with their teacher, to build wholly spiritually, and I have continued with my teacher, Augusta E. Stetson, C.S.D., during these years of spiritual development and unfolding.

The reason for this article is that during all these years, those remaining in the material organization have continued to send out misleading statements that imply Mrs. Stetson is not a Christian Scientist. As a follower of Christ, I am spiritually impelled by my revered Leader, Mary Baker Eddy to defend her student, my teacher, Augusta E. Stetson, C.S.D. from the misrepresentations of those who are still in material organization, and who by their veiled statements not correlated to their context, proclaim that Mrs. Stetson was "dismissed" from The Mother Church for not being a true Christian Scientist.

I feel that a sacred duty has been imposed upon me, one which I owe to my Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, who never died, but who is now completing the demonstration over the "last enemy," so-called "*death*," as did Christ Jesus, as well as my grateful privilege to my teacher, Augusta E. Stetson, C.S.D., to defend both the name of my teacher, as a genuine Christian Scientist, and her teaching, as genuine Christian Science, namely, that "Man is immortal and

lives by divine authority," and "There is no death." (*Science and Health*, p. 289:20; 331:16; 387:2; 426:13; 427:32 & 429:3 and *Miscellaneous Writings* 448:26;. *Unity of Good*, 37:14; 43:5; 55:2; *Miscellany* 300:13-19.— Mary Baker Eddy.)

JAMES P. B. HYNDMAN, C.S.