

CHAPTER VIII

Lecturing Again 1926–1931



After three such intensive years, a vacation was in order. The gravitation was always towards Eloise's family in California. The Knapps left for Los Angeles in late June, and spent six weeks there. Eloise wrote a friend on August 9 that Bliss was driving a Packard and enjoying it hugely. They were on their way north to San Francisco:

We had four lovely days at the Samarkand Hotel in Santa Barbara — one of the most delightful hotels I know of — Persian in architecture, in furnishings and in the gardens — a remarkable place, set in hills covered with live oaks, and a delicious breeze blowing up from the sea.

Now we are in Monterey, another beauty spot, and in two days in San Francisco. B.K. is having such a good time, I think he will stay till October.

They spent eleven days driving up the Redwood Highway through Humboldt County to Eureka, where Mr. Knapp had had such a trying adventure as a lecturer sixteen years before. In mid-September they were in Yosemite where Mr. Knapp had his picture taken while feeding a bear. On the back of the snapshot he wrote to the family back home: "Greetings

from Yosemite. These are the days of real sport for yours truly, — hunting wild game. The bear was very gentlemanly in taking some tidbits. The madam is safely in the car. We are leaving for home tomorrow.” They arrived in Boston on the last day of September, bringing Eloise’s teacher-sister, Jeanie Fosbery, for a ten-day visit.

No sooner were they home than the parade of distinguished guests began again. “Oct. 11: The Honorable Mrs. Violet Hay of London to dine. . . . Oct. 18: E.M.K. introduces Mr. Frank Bell at Brookline Lecture. . . . Oct. 23: Mr. and Mrs. J. Sidney Braithwaite of London to dine. Oct. 25: Mrs. Caroline Getty of Paris called.” From October 27 to November 9, Mr. Knapp taught his class at 7 Chatham Street. Thanksgiving brought fifteen guests to dinner, which was served on Bliss’s great-grandmother’s blue dishes. It is very evident that the Knapps took joy in playing the roles of host and hostess in their lovely home.

For amusement out of the home there were the symphony concerts, travel lectures (such as “Hunting in Africa” by Prince William of Sweden, on January 27 of the New Year) and even a hockey match between Yale and Harvard on February 19, at the Arena. As this was a Saturday night the Knapps had the Norwoods to a traditional “baked bean” dinner before the game. “Harvard won!!” So successful an evening paved the way for another a week later. “Mr. and Mrs. Rathvon to ‘beans’ and afterward to Harvard-Cornell-Dartmouth Track meet!” Apparently Harvard did not win this one! Another New England diversion occurred in late March when the Knapps took Sprague and Ethel north to St. Johnsbury, Vermont, to see some friends, the Milo Ladds, make maple syrup. Sometimes business could be combined with pleasure on these motor trips, as when the Knapps drove south to Virginia “in all the glory of the spring. Prospective students and applicants for Class interviewed at various places.”

Outstanding events of 1927 (in addition to Lindbergh’s flight to Paris on May 21) included Mr. Knapp’s Class in June, Association on the last day of that month, and Eloise’s trip to California in August, to address her teacher’s Association in San Francisco on the twenty-seventh.

During her stay in California, Eloise was the guest of Carlotta, Jeanie and Arthur in Palo Alto and of Bella and Paul in Carmel for ten happy days.

Meanwhile Mr. Knapp was receiving dividends of gratitude for the investment of metaphysical effort in his lectures over the years. Now that his term of readership was over he would pick up again what he had formerly done so consummately well:

March 28, 1927

My dear Mr. Knapp:

In conversation today with a practitioner of Christian Science, and a tried and true friend, I told him briefly of a healing which came to me when first hearing an authentic word on the subject of Christian Science. He was impressed, and desired to know if I had at any time told you of the occurrence. To this I replied "No," but I have told the world in general many times, both at the Wednesday Evening Meetings at which testimonies of Christian Science healing are given, and to individual fellowmen to whom it has been my great privilege to "drop a word in season."

Mr. _____ indicated that the circle was not complete because I had not written you of the wonderful benefit received, so I have decided there would not another sun set upon this long uncompleted work of mine.

A little over ten years ago, the writer, then located in New York City, entered the Edifice of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, at 96th Street and Central Park West. The occasion was a lecture on the subject of Christian Science by Mr. Bliss Knapp. I had gone there at the insistent instigation of my brother who plainly had found great benefits from the study of Christian Science.

The myriad false claims of mortal sense had me firmly in their grasp that evening, and without the slightest desire to overstate my woes, I would say that I was passing through about as outrageous a hell as any man need know. Slavery to tobacco, to liquor, to the so-called disease of consumption (present for over ten years), almost total loss of the sense of hearing, the use of thick glasses to reduce a terrible sense of being unable to properly see to do my daily work; these were the main Goliaths that paraded upon the battle-front, daring the Children of Israel to send forth a man to do battle.

And send him forth they did. You came upon the platform and began to speak with what was to me an unknown tongue. Practically little or nothing could I understand, and yet I could feel the tension of fear relaxing, the great weight pressing upon me lessen, until finally there came a great measure of renewed

strength and peace. This latter was due to your delineation of the so-called disease, consumption, from the Christian Science standpoint. Your loving shot from the sling, that bared its nothingness as a "consuming fear" born and claiming residence in no place but the human consciousness, brought it rattling to earth, from which it has never risen to claim the slightest attention in my life again.

But this is far from all. At luncheon on the day of the lecture, a partner had accidentally knocked off my glasses, while in the act of showing me a design he had sketched on the back of the menu card. They fell to the tile floor of the Grill and were totally demolished. I picked them up with the remark that I would have new glasses put in on the morrow, and the evening of course found me at the lecture, without them.

As I stood on the outer stone platform facing Central Park South, looking for a trolley, to take me to the Columbus Circle Subway Station, a very sweet woman touched my arm, saying, "I sat beside you at the lecture; did you hear all?" whereupon I proudly exhibited an involved electric storage battery machine with head-piece and receiving board which I had worn for years as an aid to hearing. Her reply to that act was, "If you will stick to the study of Christian Science, you will soon have no need of that."

At this juncture a trolley hove in sight, the illuminated number being quite discernible from a good distance, much to my great surprise, as that had not been my previous experience. Turning to the lady, I asked if it was number so and so, to which she replied "yes," whereupon I started down the steps with the remark, "I came without my glasses to-night, because they were broken to-day. The number was very plain without them; would it not be wonderful if I have no need for them again." To this she replied, "There is no reason why you should ever need them again."

And I never have. The eye strain, like the eye washes, and a great sense of impatience over this false condition disappeared with them.

Better than anyone else perhaps, you will understand the work that lay before me in order that there might be revealed to my darkened concept of God something of the glorious Principle that had operated to save me in the lecture room that evening. In subsequent months of study of the subject, I finally got a very clear view

of the matter from *Science and Health*, page 78, where Mrs. Eddy has written, "Spirit blesses man, but man cannot 'tell whence it cometh.' By it the sick are healed, the sorrowing are comforted, and the sinning are reformed. These are the effects of one universal God, the invisible good dwelling in eternal Science."

The scales began to fall from my eyes then so that I could testify to the fact, that while the lecturer knew nothing of my presence there, or anything of my specific false mental claims, he did know and had made himself the channel for the great and overwhelming truth that the law of God, good, ever beneficent, ever operative for the absolute good of Mankind, was at work in that room, as it was everywhere else in the world, ready to bless the slightest sign of human receptivity.

There have been many testing times since that memorable night, with much slipping and floundering, but I can honestly say that there has been steady progress in the right direction. Perfection is far from realized, and I thank God that I know why it has not. So that with Paul I am able to say that while there is no claim to apprehension, we must release ourselves from any seeming the past may have for us, and "press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

I feel that I have overstepped the bounds in writing at such length to one who has not even seen me, but I beg your indulgence with the reminder that the principal and interest are of long standing.

In closing, I can only bow my head in gratitude to God, for revealing Himself through the manifold activities of the Christian Science movement, and I can't resist an extra note of joy for that wonderful branch, the Christian Science Board of Lectureship in general and Mr. Bliss Knapp in particular.

Very sincerely yours,
H. K. Heath.



79 Gainsborough Street
Boston, Mass.
August 18, 1927

Mr. Bliss Knapp,

Dear Friend:

I finished today reading your interesting book, "Ira Oscar Knapp and Flavia Stickney Knapp." A friend was so kind and lent it to me.

I want to thank you, for the book was of great value to me. It was quite an inspiration. It helped me.

Do you remember that you delivered a lecture on Christian Science in Berlin, Germany, on the first of November in 1912? I was one of the audience and I was from 1911 to 1917 a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Berlin. I was sick of inflammatory rheumatism at that time, but had the hope that your lecture would help me. My hope was fulfilled. Two days after the lecture, I could for the first time alone go stairs up and down. I was so grateful to God, to Mrs. Eddy and you.

Today I am glad for the opportunity that I can thank you for the good you did without knowing it.

I am a member of The Mother Church and came as a visitor 5 months ago from Germany. I leave Boston Sept. 3rd for Germany.

I am so grateful that God guided my steps to your book, and that I can express my gratitude also for what your lecture did for me in 1912.

Yours in Truth,
Elizabeth Douglas

One of the few chatty letters to Eloise which escaped the incinerator was occasioned by her summer in California. From the last paragraph we gain some idea of Mr. Knapp's popularity as a lecturer:

Bliss Knapp
7 Chatham Street
Brookline, Massachusetts
September 4, 1927

Dearest Blessed One:

You don't know how thrilled I was to get your telegram telling just when you would get home, — the sixteenth. I now have something definite from which to figure. It's getting kind of lonesome hereabouts with no chum to talk things over, with all the rooms rattling like dry bones, no noises unless I make them. That may be because this is a holiday week end, with Labor Day coming tomorrow, and everybody gone. Well, to break the spell, I drove out to see Miss Stephens this afternoon and cheer her up a bit. She looks the same as ever, and is very grateful to get her forty dollars per month. The second check came in yesterday.

Miss Stephens expected you to come with me and she had some hand embroidery she wanted to give you I believe. Maybe I didn't get that just straight, but she wants you to come in when you get back, so she can do what she has in mind about it. This piece was hand embroidered by Mrs. Eddy when she was sixteen years old. It needs bleaching now or something done to it, and she wants you to get it done, and maybe give it to you. I told her of the hand made lace from Switzerland which you have.

Would you believe it, Miss Stephens is also a hero worshipper of Lindbergh. She wanted my book to read again, so I took it over and will call for it in a week. When I got back there was a phone call from Lady Dunmore, so I arranged to see her at 2:30 tomorrow afternoon; and at four o'clock I have arranged to call on Miss Eveleth. Mr. Welch thought I ought to, so that is arranged. Then Tuesday at 4:30 I have arranged to call on Mrs. Whitcomb. Ethel wanted to be present, and would be busy all day tomorrow, so we fixed it up for Tuesday. Then she asked if there was anything in her reading this morning I thought should be criticised. But I had no suggestions to offer. The fact is she read well this morning. It was a good lesson on Man.

Mrs. Knott stopped at my auto as she came along after church and told me she had moved away from Gainsboro Street! She has taken an apartment on Beacon Street, near Mr. Neal's and on the

same side. It is on the corner of Carlton, right across from that drug store. She isn't settled yet so she is living with Frank until the apartment is ready for her. She expressed great regret that Mr. Rogers did not carry on, and she seemed to drop a hint that next year he may feel ready to go on with the work. I hope he will.

Mrs. Knott wants ever so much to see that lecture of mine that Mrs. Eddy edited. She said some people would ask as much as a thousand dollars for such a treasure.

Mrs. Conniers is going to have me to dinner some evening this week. I am to let her know when, on Tuesday when she comes over for some more work. I have completed my train schedule for the fall, and we are to *spend Thanksgiving in Cleveland*. It doesn't work out so well as Detroit. That Cleveland hotel is a fine place, and we can have company or not as we choose.

I am enclosing a letter from Mrs. Obear which shows how St. Louis people think well of you. I didn't give her a book, telling her the St. Louis quota is filled.

Tell me whether you are coming through Worcester early enough in the day for me to drive you home from there. Let me know the standard or train time, and I can figure the rest. I invite you to lunch or supper at the Wayside Inn. Mr. Ford has agreed to build a new road to divert the traffic away from the Inn, and incidentally to shorten the curves in that vicinity.

I got letters from Rosa and Walter thanking me for the check and Rosa said she had almost enough to meet their monthly obligations, this month, so they put most of what I sent in the bank. But you see if I hadn't sent the check they would have been shy a little, and that does worry and trouble such people. Burt and Hattie drove up to be there over the holidays. I gave Sprague a hundred dollars soon after you left, so he has been real cheerful all along. They went down to camp early Saturday morning, so they stayed at home Friday night. They expect to get back the middle of the week.

We have had so much rain of late, everything in the house got rather damp, so I got Arthur over yesterday morning to ease up some of the doors. Davidson is coming Tuesday to fix that lighting fixture on the hall toilet door.

I am so glad Bella is coming with you. We can straighten her

out. I think she ought to go with us to New Orleans, and then it is a very short run from there to Los Angeles. You see once we leave New York, we travel pretty rapidly to New Orleans. You can consult your own little red book.

I had 144 refusals for August, plus 410 for July makes 554 to date. Then add the 155 I have accepted, and that makes a total of 709, — and the year isn't over yet.

It was in November 1926, that Bliss Knapp had received notification of the intention of The Christian Science Board of Directors to re-elect him to the Board of Lectureship for the ensuing year, effective July 1, 1927, and asking him to prepare a lecture and submit it in advance of the Annual Meeting. Mr. Knapp had replied on November 29 that this would be entirely agreeable with him and that he would endeavor to submit a lecture as soon as possible. The lecture manuscript was approved on June 3, and arrangements for a lecture schedule began. The summer of 1927 was very busy, the constant demands of the lecture scheduling absorbing a great deal of time and attention. Also, about this time the Directors employed "a competent English critic" to go over the lecture manuscripts with the purpose of smoothing out the phraseology. This move on the Board's part led to an interesting bit of correspondence. Mr. Knapp wrote the Board on September 15, 1927:

I was very much interested in what the Board of Directors had to say at their joint meeting with the Board of Lectureship last June, and particularly with your expressed desire to be helpful to the lecturers, by the employment of a competent English critic. I heartily agree with all you said, and I feel it is most desirable to have a competent English critic for the lecture manuscripts.

I hope I may be pardoned for mentioning this subject, but the methods of the critic do not seem to be all that could be desired. Admissions have been made, somewhat reluctantly to be sure, that the methods of the English critic might be described in the words of Job: "He taketh away the heart . . . and maketh them to stagger like a drunken man." That is of course a distinct menace to the lecture work.

It has occurred to me that the work of the English critic might be more helpful to the lecturers by studying one of my early

lectures which was edited by our beloved Leader, Mrs. Eddy. I am willing to submit the manuscript containing Mrs. Eddy's pencilings, together with her letter which accompanied it, if you think it will help to give greater assurance and conviction to the lecturers by a more intelligent sense of encouragement. . . .

The Board approved Mr. Knapp's suggestion and he wrote again on September 23, sending the manuscript lecture and Mrs. Eddy's letter commenting on the lecture:

In accordance with the instructions contained in this letter, the lecture was duly published in pamphlet form and later was authorized to be translated into French, — the first authorized translation.

I am enclosing herewith one of the English pamphlets, and you will observe that some further changes were made in the lecture by the English critic in the editorial department, before it was published in pamphlet form. If the lecture manuscripts of today could first be edited by competent metaphysical critics, even as Mrs. Eddy edited my lecture, and then let the English critic polish up the English as it was done for this pamphlet, I believe the method would be more nearly right than at present.

I have cherished these originals for many years, but I am now turning them over to you for preservation, and especially for the good they may accomplish in giving greater encouragement and support to the lecturers. I could not surrender these originals if I thought I should not have copies for reference. I am happy to accept your offer to supply copies for my files.

The Board's reply of October 19 indicated that the originals would be carefully preserved in the vaults of The Mother Church. Copies were sent to Mr. Knapp. The Board felt that the method of editing the lectures recommended by him was the one that was now being followed. The method did not have the universal acceptance of the members of the Board of Lectureship, as the following letter reveals:

Brevoort Hotel
120 West Madison Street
Chicago,
Nov. 4, 1927

Dear Mr. Knapp:

The thing I did not greatly fear has come upon me. My proposed new lecture manuscript which I submitted on August 24, or rather the tatters of it have been returned to me. I have tearlessly performed the last sad rites over the remains. It leaves me childless, in "mine old age"; or rather deprives me utterly of my last born. The annihilation was so complete that after a few minutes of sorrow the pain ceased entirely and I just laughed. I'll admit that my productions have many imperfections but what gets me is this: to have a 74-year old boy (like myself) who has been mixed up with the religious and intellectual life for over 60 years spend two months in care and prayer over preparing a manuscript and then have it sat on by some unknown critics who sit around in chairs: well, I guess the joke's on me. I'll have to cancel some engagements as I can't give the same lecture in the same places twice. The fabled phoenix rose from its ashes and perhaps my manuscript, temporarily illuminated by the phosphorescence of its own putrefaction, may have a similar, glorious ascent.

You see I had to spill my feelings over on somebody and I chose you. Much love to your wife and yourself.

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Graham

During this mild controversy over the editing of the lectures, Bliss Knapp was off lecturing again, beginning September 24. The first week in October he was lecturing for churches in and around New York City. Eloise and Bella, who was visiting, accompanied him in the automobile. In mid-October he was back in New England, at Concord, New Hampshire, and Northampton, Massachusetts.

That Mr. Knapp fared better than Mr. Graham with lecture revision is indicated by the following letters:

Mr. Knapp wrote the Board on December 12, 1927:

I have now been lecturing for about three months, and feel the need of having the printed copy of my lecture smoothed up to conform with the way I am now delivering it. I am enclosing herewith the revised form, and trust you may find it possible to return it to me without taking the full month, as I greatly desire to have the lecture reprinted before I start on my next trip.

You may be interested to know that I have talked with several beginners in Christian Science who have assured me that although this was the first lecture they had heard on Christian Science, it was perfectly clear to them, and especially the difference between Christian Science and suggestion. Two such persons whom I met at the close of the lecture in New York City bought a copy of *Science and Health* and a *Quarterly* on the spot, and were very enthusiastic about what they had heard.

The following is copied from a letter the author received from Mrs. Milliken of Atlanta, Georgia:

Today I have been hearing many good things from the lecture. It took well and will do lots of good. Just now since I started to write this letter, the secretary to E. Y. Clark, whom you may possibly remember as former leader of the Ku Klux Klan, called me. Mr. Clark got out of the Klan several years ago, when so many elements began to creep in to disintegrate the purity of its purpose. (I am speaking in his language, as I am not a supporter of that organization.) Mr. Clark's secretary is a Christian Scientist, a fine student and a fine woman. Mr. Clark has taken much interest in Christian Science; in fact is studying it and depends upon it for his help. He, his secretary, and a man who is connected with Mr. Clark in business attended the lecture. She said Mr. Clark remarked that now he could see so clearly where the healing element came in and what place it had. He said also to her, "Now, do you see what Mr. Knapp said about suggestion? That's what we have to watch." I thought this interesting, being an indication of how those facts which you so clearly brought out took hold of the thought of even a beginner. . . .

The lecture tour (January 13 to May 20) took the Knapps westward to Texas and the Gulf, on to California, north to Victoria and Canada, south to the Dakotas, Chicago, Ohio, and home again. They were in New York for four days before the Annual Meeting of The Mother Church. It was apparent, from the exchange of correspondence which this lecture, "Christian Science and the Ideal Church," produced with the Board of Directors, that exceptions were being taken to statements made by Mr. Knapp in the lecture. For example, in the Board's letter of December 19, 1927, it was recommended that Mr. Knapp not make reference to Lindbergh but to the "faith of our aviators who have ventured to many parts of the globe." In the Board's letter of January 26, there were further exceptions; these related to perception, reason, memory, application and judgment being "faculties of the divine Mind," as Mr. Knapp referred to them. The letter quoted from *Science and Health*, 327:29, "Reason is the most active human faculty," and recommended that Mr. Knapp use the word "quality" rather than "faculty" so that his statements would not be open to challenge.

Mr. Knapp's reply, written on February 4, 1928, from the Baker Hotel in Dallas, indicated clearly his obedience to the Board's directions:

I received a few days ago your letter of Jan. 26th recommending me to amend the statement in my lecture in regard to "faculties of the divine Mind." The only way I see to satisfactorily amend it is to omit the section entitled "Mental Faculties," and I wish to assure you that from the day I received your letter, I have ceased to give that section in my lecture. I shall also instruct my secretary to delete it from the printed reports. You may be sure that I shall always obey anything that you feel is wise for me to do.

May I add, however, that you have recommended the deletion of a portion of my lecture which I sincerely believe is a corrective to the irreligion of modern education. My treatment of the subject has helped to lift thought to the acknowledgment of God as the source of all our faculties of intelligence; for "as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

May I add further that the popular slogan "God does not remember, because He knows" takes no cognizance of the scientific fact that true knowing must include all the retentive faculties such as "Immortal memory"¹ as *Science and Health* states. Also the

statement about human reason, referred to in your letter, may well be studied in connection with Mrs. Eddy's other statements on the subject of reason as a faculty of the divine Mind.

Class was held June 20 to July 3, in 1928, and the Association meeting followed immediately, on July 5. Many Knapp students took occasion to call on the Knapps both before and after these annual events.

One of the interesting letters, covering Mr. Knapp's views on insurance, written in connection with preparing for the Association meeting, was the following:

June 15, 1928

Dear Mr. _____:

I find it necessary, because of having more questions submitted than I could possibly answer at the Association Meeting, to give the answers to your questions in this letter.

In the Manual, page 30:18, Mrs. Eddy requires the Directors to place fire insurance on the First Reader's residence at 385 Commonwealth Avenue. Fire insurance is therefore approved even in the Manual.

Life insurance, as I observe it, is a different matter. The kind of insurance I prefer is expressed in People's Idea of God, 1:14-2. Life insurance is an admitted barrier to "man's continuance" — in — "the true glory of immortality." *ibid.* page 2:1, 2. The objections of Science to life insurance are plain to my thought, and that would settle the matter, but for the contention that the head of the family should not leave his wife and children penniless.

Gambling in business, or gambling on the prospects of a man's life, is always wrong. In fact, no gambling was ever right; it is a "get rich quick" scheme, if ever there was one. There are cooperative banks and institutions of various kinds provided for protecting a man's savings without gambling on a man's life or business.

Trusting this will answer your questions and hoping to see you on July 5th, I am

Sincerely yours,
Bliss Knapp

The remainder of 1928 was devoted to lecturing abroad. The Knapps sailed September 2, on the S.S. *Laconia*, a Cunard ship, for England, where

they landed on the tenth. Eloise's record for February 7, 1929, the day they returned, gives a quick outline of the tour:

Bliss and Eloise Knapp reached home after being in England, Scotland and Ireland from September 10 to December 20, 1928; two weeks' vacation in Paris, with a lecture there on Jan. 3, 1929; then lectures in Berne and Zurich, Switzerland; in Hamburg, Berlin, and Dresden, Germany; Copenhagen, Denmark; Gothenburg, Sweden; Oslo, Norway; and The Hague, Holland. We sailed home on the S.S. *Majestic*, White Star Line, on January 30. . . .*

As Mrs. Knapp kept a running record of this tour, there is much correspondence to make it vivid. Two letters provide some impressions. The first, from Mrs. Knapp to two of Mr. Knapp's students,² was written on the back of three postcards:

London, Nov. 18/28

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Dillaway:

How is Wellesley Hills? England — and London especially — is as delightful as ever. We have had such a warm reception from the Scientists over here, & the lectures are being so well received — with many cases of healing reported — that we are very happy.

We have been, also, to Scotland & Ireland — good lectures in both places: but those Irish, the *day after* we left, tried to blow up King William's statue in the Central Square we had driven through! Armistice Day stirred old memories!

We heard the grand news of the Hoover landslide when we reached Belfast — & how we did rejoice, tho' we *knew* that *must* be the result.

*Mr. Knapp's schedule in the British Isles was intensive. In the three months between September 16 and December 15, he lectured 54 times, including 13 times in London, 3 in Scotland, and 2 in Ireland. Belfast was again on his itinerary; he lectured there on November 8. Mrs. Knapp adds: "This whole schedule was fulfilled to the letter, although in going from Berlin to Copenhagen, we were held up by a snow slide, and had to spend the night in the railway coach (which was warm and lighted and which we had to ourselves), at Nestved, Denmark. At ten o'clock the next morning, our train was the first one to move, and we got to Copenhagen safely, a day ahead of the lecture date!"

I was "thrilled" to find the original of this famous portrait of Shakespeare in The Nat'l Portrait Gallery. Don't you love the gallants of Elizabeth's day — especially their costumes?

We finish in England Dec. 15 & then go to Paris for Christmas. In January "we" lecture on the Continent, beginning with Paris Jan. 2, & then home early in Feb. Bliss sends his love with mine to you both!

E.M. Knapp

The second was written by Mr. Knapp to cheer a student whose husband was ill. It is dated from the Hotel Continental in Paris, December 29:

Well, we got the election returns in Belfast! And we got the reaction from it while leaving Ireland, crossing the Irish Sea. Perhaps you remember the waves actually went over the top of the smoke stacks of the *Mauretania* during that storm, and our little boat was like an egg shell on the waves. We were thankful beyond measure when we landed. Then perhaps you recall the terrible winds that followed Coolidge's Armistice Day message, and the wrecks that resulted. But God cared for us always, and for only three lectures in the whole series was there a rain storm, and in each case the audiences were larger than usual.

We had a beautiful experience with the English lectures, and at the close of the series, Mr. Tennant told me that my lectures had put the lid on the Bill-Dittemore activities. Mrs. Thomson and some others also said the same thing. That made me very grateful.

Our Thanksgiving Day was spent in the hotel in Sheffield, and there was roast turkey on the menu, too! Christmas Day we spent with Mrs. Getty here in Paris. She, too, had a turkey, and Billy the dog sat up with the rest of us. Once, when he wasn't getting his share, he gently placed one paw on my arm, and so restrained me from taking the next mouthful. Of course, he got it instead and his quiet personality left quite an impression on us.

Our hotel room here in Paris overlooks the Tuileries Garden, and on the opposite side of it flows the Seine. Down to the left is the Louvre, and we stepped across for a visit in the picture galleries there, one day. Over to the right is the Place-de-la-Concorde. All this in full view of our window, with the Eiffel Tower across the

river. Citroen, the Henry Ford of Paris, uses the Eiffel Tower for electric advertising signs for his automobile. One day, we drove across the Place-de-la-Concorde through the Champs Elysees to the Arc-de-Triomphe which is in the center of the Etoile. From there we continued out through the Bois de Boulogne, which enters into the woods or "Bois" on the outskirts of the City. Beautiful lakes and drives throughout the wooded area have made this parkway truly famous. During the war, cattle of all descriptions were kept in these woods, as a precautionary measure against a possible siege.

Now we see no evidences of the great struggle here in Paris. There are no war cripples to be seen. The shops are all in Holiday attire, and jewel shops seem to be without end. Prices for living are a bit higher, I would say, than they are in London, and there they are higher than at home.

My first lecture for the Continental tour is here in Paris Jan. 3rd. Then, after a three weeks' tour covering the principal capitals, we sail for home. . . .

Several sentences from Eloise's account in *Bliss Knapp and Eloise Knapp — Their Book* (p. 6) make interesting additions. She reiterates that practitioners in London agreed that Bliss's lectures had indeed "knocked out the disloyal so-called 'movement' of J. V. Dittimore and Annie Bill."*

*Mrs. Bill, nee Annie Cecilia Bulmer, became interested in Christian Science in 1904. By 1909 she had become a disturbing element in Third Church, London, so much so that by 1912 she was forbidden by the Board of that church to enter the edifice or its Reading Room. She saw herself as the successor to Mary Baker Eddy, organized "The Central and Universal Church of Christ, Scientist," in London, wrote a manual, began to publish a journal and, in 1920, at the time of the litigation, went to Boston to secure backing for her movement. As John V. Dittimore had been dismissed by his fellow Directors and was now opposing their action in the courts, he was the logical contact for Mrs. Bill to make. Interested, he went to London and was made deputy leader of the group, now called "The Parent Church." He edited a periodical called "Christian Science Watchman," lectured, and taught classes. Meanwhile Mrs. Bill was preparing a textbook entitled "The Science of Reality," which was published in 1930. Among her curious views was that concerning marriage, a contract which should last only nine years, subject to renewal. She also approved of medical help for patients under the care of practitioners. Despite the combined efforts of Mrs. Bill and Mr. Dittimore, the Bill "movement" expired completely with the passing of its "leaders" in the 1930s. It is worthy of note that Dittimore, at the very end, made public his repentance for having opposed the Church founded by Mary Baker Eddy. See *The Christian Science Monitor*, May 11, 1937.

Then: "In late January we returned to London — where we found the C. S. Journal for January 1929,³ in which the Board of Directors stated over their own signature that Mrs. Eddy took drugs!!!* The darkness had begun to descend over the earth! The winter clamped down on Europe and England, the North Sea froze over, and they had one of the worst winters in Europe in years."

One of the most significant aspects of the Knapps' stay in London was a visit paid to them in the Hotel Mayfair by Miss Clara M.S. Shannon, C.S.D., on October 10. Miss Shannon was born June 17, 1855. After being healed by reading *Science and Health*, she went through Primary Class with Mrs. Eddy in 1888, and through Mrs. Eddy's Normal Class in 1889. She healed and taught in Montreal, and formed the church there, till Mrs. Eddy called her to Pleasant View about 1894. There she stayed until 1903. However, as Miss Shannon had been called to stay with Mrs. Eddy on numerous occasions before, she recalled that she had spent a total of about fourteen years in close association with Mrs. Eddy, whom she always referred to as "Mother." Miss Shannon had taught her first class in London in 1907 and taught a class each year until 1929. [These facts were extracted from a letter to Mrs. Knapp, written by one of Miss Shannon's students in London, Miss E. Jessica Lewis, who lived in Miss Shannon's cottage in Purley during the last few years of Miss Shannon's life. The letter was written in 1931.]

The Knapps had been in correspondence with Miss Shannon long before the London visit:

Thatched Cottage
Higher Drive, Purley,
Surrey, England
27 Sept., 1926

Dear Mr. Knapp:

Please forgive my having waited so long before answering your kind letter and loving invitation from Mrs. Knapp and yourself. I cannot tell you how much both were appreciated.

You asked me to write of our beloved Leader's demonstration in connection with the well which was empty.

*"Bliss *greatly* troubled," wrote Eloise later in an outline sketch of Bliss Knapp's experience.

You no doubt remember Miss Martha Morgan who was Mrs. Eddy's housekeeper for more than eighteen years, and whom your dear Parents knew well and were kind to. On my going down-stairs to breakfast one morning, when we met, she told me that the Farmer, who served Mrs. Eddy with milk, when he came that morning seemed to be very solemn; and said that his well was dry, there was no water in it. It was (the weather) so bitterly cold, everything was frozen, and the well from which he obtained water for his cattle, was empty.

On the day before, he was obliged to go to a brook or river (I forget which) which was frozen, some distance away. He had taken barrels in his wagon which he filled with ice and snow from the river, and this he took home and melted so as to have water for his cows. This was very hard work, it took a long time, and he seemed to be much distressed.

During dinner that day I mentioned his difficulties to dear Mother, telling her just what had happened. She smiled, looked up and said, "Oh, if he only knew:" then after a moment's silence — "Love fills that well." (Please do not mention this except to those who would understand.)

The next morning when the Farmer brought the milk, he was overjoyed and told Miss Morgan that a wonderful thing occurred. That morning early when he had gone out to attend to the cattle, he found the well full of water, and in spite of the bitter cold day with all the ice and snow around, the well was full of water. He said that it must have been Mrs. Eddy's prayers that had done it all. She must have had something to do with it for it was a miracle. He had great reverence for Mrs. Eddy, although he was not a Christian Scientist.

That day when we were at dinner, I told Mother what had happened and what the man said. Oh! the joy and sweetness, the illumination of her loved face, is ever to be remembered. Her expressions of praise and gratitude to God were glorious! and she said, "Oh, didn't I know."

She gave us a Lesson in Christian Science afterwards which has blessed me ever since and with God's help will continue.

It was a joy and help to see your sister and Mr. Fosbery recently, and I trust that we may meet again.

God bless and guard you and all your family. When I think of your consecrated Parents, I thank God for having known and loved them.

With dearest wishes,
Yours most sincerely,
Clara Shannon

The following accounts were written down by Mrs. Knapp within three hours after Miss Shannon's visit to the hotel, and confirmed by Mr. Knapp:

One evening Mother was in her sewing-room at Pleasant View, and she asked Miss Shannon to get something from Calvin Frye. When Miss Shannon went to his room, he was not at his desk, so she went farther into the room, and saw him stretched out on the floor, face upwards. She took hold of his sleeve to arouse him, and when she released it, the arm fell limp to the floor. She saw the condition was serious, and she knew she needed Mother's wisdom in such a crisis. She called, "Mother, could you come here? I think Calvin has fainted or something."

Mother came quickly, and when she saw the condition, she began to talk to him with such sweetness and kindness, calling him "Callie," which she did when he had pleased her. She reminded him that God was Love, she called to him to AWAKE, and poured such love upon him! Then when he began to show signs of consciousness, she began to thunder at him; her whole manner and speech became as severe as before it had been tender. She called to him, "Stand on your feet! Defeat your enemies! Calvin, come here."

She rebuked the error so severely, one would have said it could not be the same woman who had poured forth such sweetness before.

He finally awoke enough to stand up, but he was not AWAKE. Mother said, "I must make him *laugh*, or *cry*, or *become enraged*. We must not let him die."

She talked to him, told him about various things. She said, "Now go to your room," and when he had walked the length of the hall, she called him back again, and talked again to him. She did this six or seven times, until Miss Shannon, moved with compassion,

said, "Oh, Mother, do let him sit down and rest." "No, no," Mrs. Eddy answered, "if I let him sit down now, he will die, and we can't bring him back again."

Finally Mrs. Eddy asked him if he didn't remember how she had hired Mr. White's farm for a day. Had anyone before ever hired a farm for a day? — and Calvin laughed!

"Thank God," Mother said when he laughed; and she kept at it until he was awake and free!



When Mother was writing the 1901 Message, and when she was about half through it, Miss Shannon was keeping her watch in another room, and Calvin Frye and Joseph Mann were with Mother, who was having a struggle, as Miss Shannon knew. She could hear the two men talking to Mother, and Miss Shannon was praying to God, sometimes on her knees, for Life and strength, Truth and Love to be manifest there, for Miss Shannon felt something awful approaching mentally.

Finally, the sound of the men's voices ceased. Miss Shannon said she *heard* that *silence*; it was the most awful sound she had ever heard. She went into Mother's room, and there lay Calvin Frye and Joseph Mann stretched on the floor, flat on their faces. Then she looked at Mother; her head had dropped, her jaw dropped, and every sign of death.

Miss Shannon shouted truth at her, shook her, called her, quoted the book, *Science and Health*, reminded her that *Mother had written that book!* Finally, consciousness began to return, and Miss Shannon told her to stand on her feet, and putting her hands under Mother's arm-pits, held her up — a dead weight. Finally and suddenly, Mother *laughed*.

Miss Shannon looked up and gave thanks when she heard that, and asked what the laugh meant. Mother said, "Your face! If you could see your face, you would laugh too!" Miss Shannon had been so earnest.

Mother took up a pad of paper, and began to write. Miss Shannon went to her room across the hall, but left the door ajar. She looked in at Mother in a little while, and saw her still writing.

Miss Shannon did not know whether or not Mother saw her. Again, a little while later, Miss Shannon looked in at Mother, and saw her still writing. Then Mother called her and severely rebuked her, and said, "Go handle your fear! You are afraid I shall have another attack! Go and handle your own fear!" which Miss Shannon did. Miss Shannon did not know when the two men recovered and left the room.

When the 1901 Message was finished, Mother said, "Oh, what a lot of love it took to do that! The mesmerists did not want the world to have that Message, but Love meant it to be given."

Mother said the 1901 Message was Christian Science in a nutshell.



The Pope (Leo) wrote Mother a letter asking her to stop her followers from teaching "*his subjects*" Christian Science. He sent a cardinal over to see her; and she sent Mr. Edward A. Kimball to New York to intercept him. Mr. Kimball said that he was so grateful for all that Mother had told him about Romanism, or he would have been deceived by the suavity and gentlemanliness of the emissary.

Then Mother wrote the By-Law in the Manual forbidding anyone to teach Roman Catholics Christian Science except "with the written consent of the authority of their Church." [*Manual*, 87:4-5.]

[The first By-Law on the subject came out in the *Sentinel* of April 30, 1904.]



Mother said that her Manual was as much God's Law as the Ten Commandments or the Sermon on the Mount. Mother said the Manual "will be acknowledged as law by law; I mean by the laws of our State."

Then Mother wrote the article, now in Miscellany, that "eternity awaits our Church Manual." (230:2)

Mother said that the only way to keep the Manual from being altered and so destroyed, "*to keep error from dividing the garments of*

Christ,” was to demand her written consent in various places. She said that it was *a cross* for her to demand this, but she could bear it!

Mother said that the Manual was needed to keep the teaching of Christian Science correct; that Christian Science must be taught uniformly.

Mother said, “I must teach so long as error is taught and called Christian Science.”

Mother asked Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Webster of Chicago to write out a manual of class teaching; and she asked others to do the same (other teachers). When Mother looked over what they had done, she said, “I have it to do; it is my work;” and she began the Manual.

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Foster Eddy was driving Mother one day along State Street in Concord, New Hampshire, when the city was doing something to the street, and had dug a big hole in the middle of the street. *Foster Eddy drove right into the hole!* The carriage went down and up again, and Mother was thrown out, and the wheel was just about to come over her neck and face. But, as she said afterward, Love stopped that wheel, and wouldn't let it come over her.

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Mother loved Bliss Knapp and wanted him to be one of the greatest men in the world — with such a father as he had! Mother often spoke lovingly of Bliss and of his future.

In addition to this account, Mrs. Knapp wrote another to the Fosberys, of a visit the Knapps paid to Miss Shannon:

A Visit to Miss Clara Shannon, C.S.D.
London: Mayfair Hotel,
December 11th, 1928.

Dearest Jeanie and Arthur:

. . . This letter to you two is to be about yesterday, and our

lovely visit with Miss Clara Shannon at Purley. She has attended three of Bliss's lectures, so you see how well she is; and she wanted us to come and spend the day with her at her home in the country, and this we accomplished yesterday.

We arrived at "Thatched Cottage" about 11:30 A.M., but no one was in sight, and the curtains were drawn as if no one were at home. My heart smote me — should I have telephoned again just before we started, as we had made the arrangements a week before! However, a maid let us in, and we looked through the hall into a dim storeroom, filled with trunks, boxes and bundles, where in the obscurity, we saw Miss Shannon, apron on, poring over a trunk. She exclaimed as she greeted us, "I was just looking into the trunk where I keep the things Mother (Mrs. Eddy) gave me, to find some photographs."⁴ "Oh! Oh!" I said, "please let us look too."

And after we had taken off our wraps and talked a while, she *did* take us into that storeroom, and showed us a lovely black velvet cape trimmed with lace and jet bead trimming which dear Mrs. Eddy had worn; also a sweet, small carriage parasol of black taffeta, all covered with frills of lace, which our Leader had carried when she drove in the open victoria; some of her dainty yellow kid gloves, (she wore 5½); some books in which Mrs. Eddy had written Miss Shannon's name; Mrs. Eddy's purse, gold hair comb, some stick pins, all of which dear Mrs. Eddy had given to Miss Shannon. Then she unrolled a small bundle of old fountain pens with which Mrs. Eddy had corrected the proofs of Miscellaneous Writings. What a blessing that our Leader had fountain pens with which to write!

Then Miss Shannon told us with what difficulty Miscellaneous Writings had been printed. She said it was printed in the old Publishing Society on Falmouth Street. They had several *presses* (N.B. Instead of "presses" I evidently mean "linotypes." E.M.K.); no sooner would they start one press and get it going, than it would break down, and they would have to start another, only to have it break down, and so on. Workers like Ira and Flavia Knapp came and kept watch — I think she said all night — and treated to protect the work from m.a.m. so that it *could* go forward; while at Pleasant View, Miss Shannon and Calvin Frye kept watch, *every other hour, day and night*, that the Book might be printed; and this prayer and

work went on for weeks and weeks, and was such a weary, trying time. Mother, Paul and I were in Boston when *Miscellaneous Writings* first appeared, in the autumn of 1897, but little did we know of the travail and anguish with which it was given to the world. Miss Shannon said that there is an article by our Leader on Animal Magnetism in the *Journal* for February 1889, but Mrs. Eddy *purposefully* left it out of *Miscellaneous Writings*.

Miss Shannon told us that she was so *thankful* and grateful when she and Calvin Frye got Mrs. Eddy safely into the train on the return trip to Concord, New Hampshire, after Mrs. Eddy's last appearance in Boston in June 1899, at Tremont Temple at Annual Meeting — and *Jeanie and I were there!* Mrs. Eddy must have been relieved in thought too, for she got to talking with the colored porter on the train, and found that he had the same name as one of the negroes on her husband's, Colonel Glover's, estate when she was a bride. The old porter captured her heart, and she told Miss Shannon that she wanted some money to give him. Miss Shannon answered that Mrs. Eddy had her new purse in her pocket, and that it was filled with money. (Miss Shannon showed us this very purse of gray lizard skin edged with silver.) Then Mrs. Eddy took it out of her pocket, but said, "Oh! this isn't enough. Ask Calvin for some more money." So Calvin contributed what he had in his pocket, and it all made a good handful of silver. Mrs. Eddy then called the porter, told him to hold out his two hands, making a cup of them, and to shut his eyes. This he did, and Mrs. Eddy poured the silver into his hands and told him to open his eyes! Miss Shannon said she would never forget the two faces — the [one] beaming with delight, and our Leader's lit up with the joy and affection of unselfed love! Mrs. Eddy also wanted the porter to have a *good* supper, and after they three had lunched from the basket which the Hannas had provided, they gave him the rest, an abundance.

At one time Miss Shannon learned that Josephine Woodbury and her students had tried *specifically* for fourteen months to kill Clara. They said that if they could alienate her affection from Mrs. Eddy, they would "get her." But they never could shake Miss Shannon's love for her Leader, and their malpractice had no dangerous effect on Miss Shannon. Isn't there a lesson in that for everyone!

When Mrs. Eddy received a gift from someone of a new comb set with diamonds, she took out of her hair her old gold comb (the new one may have been tortoise shell, I do not remember) and put it into Miss Shannon's hair. When Mrs. Eddy was given a gold fountain pen, she gave her silver one to Miss Shannon. It delighted me to know that Mrs. Eddy had these exquisite things given to her, and that she used them, and evidently enjoyed them.

Miss Shannon told of buying with her own money some gray satin and lovely pearl trimming, which she had made up for Mrs. Eddy. Malpractice knew nothing of this love-offering of Miss Shannon's; but when Mrs. Eddy ordered a dress, she could hardly ever get anything to fit her. Mrs. Weller brought the dress to Pleasant View when it was finished the day before Christmas. She was walking away to get her carriage which was awaiting her at the cottage, when Mrs. Eddy spied her and asked, "Who is that woman?" Miss Shannon answered that it was Mrs. Weller. "What did she come for?" asked Mrs. Eddy. "To bring a box for Calvin, Martha and me," Miss Shannon said. Mrs. Eddy told her to call Mrs. Weller back, and then our Leader had Mrs. Weller spend the night, and eat Christmas dinner with them the next day.

But Mrs. Eddy wasn't satisfied. "What is in the box?" she asked. Then Miss Shannon fetched a silk petticoat which she had had made to go with the dress, and gave it to Mrs. Eddy, who was *delighted* with it, and said it looked like a sunset.

On Christmas morning, Mrs. Eddy was having her breakfast in bed as always, and Miss Shannon brought in to her the gray satin dress. Mrs. Eddy was so happy and said it was *just* what she wanted; and when she tried it on, it fitted perfectly, except for two tiny alterations! The waist was trimmed with gray velvet and pearl trimming. Miss Shannon showed us some of the jet bead trimming off of the dress shown in Mrs. Eddy's photographs taken in 1888. [The Smith Photograph.]

Well then, at 1:30 or so, we were called in to dinner. Miss Shannon said it was a Thanksgiving dinner, for she was so happy to have us with her; but we said it was our Christmas dinner — for there was a turkey, deliciously browned, crisp roasted potatoes, cranberries, Brussels sprouts (the inevitable in England), and a plum pudding which Miss Shannon had made herself — without

wine, and a delicious sauce. We and Miss Shannon and her three students, two sisters, Misses Lewis, living in the same cottage, did ample justice to this wonderful dinner. The three students hung breathlessly on every word which fell from Bliss's lips as he told of his experience in Belfast years ago, and of our getting away from South Africa in 1919. All enjoyed these accounts, and they gave Miss Shannon a rest, for she, dear thing, had talked continuously for over two hours.

How we did appreciate the love which had been put into that feast — such loving thought and preparation and labor! I took her two lovely bunches of grapes, and we gave her a fat bank-note when we left, so we did our part too. After dinner, I read aloud some of her manuscript. She is a splendid worker, well and strong, and doing a big work.

Several times Miss Shannon sent her love to you both. She thinks so much of you, and enjoyed her visits with you so much.

Love and tender affection
from ELOISE.

During the lecture tour, Mr. Knapp received a letter from the Board of Directors (dated January 9, 1929), indicating approval of the lecture which he had sent them and giving him permission to have it printed and to use it whenever he wished.

The copy of the lecture mentioned was achieved in a singular but very sensible way. Mr. Knapp hired a shorthand expert to make a transcript of the lecture as he delivered it at Queen's Hall, London, on Monday, December 3, 1928. As this lecture contained the statements to which the Board had earlier taken exception, namely that the faculties of perception, reason, memory, application and judgment are all faculties of the divine Mind, the letter above was an indication that the difference of opinion on this subject no longer existed.

Among the promptest guests to call on the Knapps after their return, were Mr. and Mrs. Irving C. Tomlinson, Mrs. Hulin, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Cudworth, Mr. and Mrs. Rathvon, Mr. and Mrs. Willis J. Abbot, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Norwood, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Johnson. The Knapps were hardly settled in their home before they were off again on a lecture trip. During early March, from the second to the ninth, Eloise attended the Inauguration of Herbert Hoover in Washington. Hoover, educated in

California, was her “favorite” President, and one to whom she often referred with admiration in later years. During the rest of Mr. Knapp’s tour, Eloise went to California, to be with her family. In the latter part of April she took a motor trip with Paul and Bella Mabury north along the California coast, from Los Angeles to San Francisco. On May 3, Bliss and Eloise made rendezvous in Boston, with Carlotta Mabury as their house guest. Meanwhile Bliss had written this significant letter, in anticipation of his wife’s arrival:

Commodore Hotel,
New York
May 1, 1929

My dearest Eloise:

Welcome home. A happy, happy home-coming to you and dear Carlotta. I am glad you asked Sprague to meet you. . . .

My reputation seems to be high, here in New York. Second Church is a good indication. They have been having the church *nearly* full for lectures, and once or twice every seat practically was taken. Mr. Doorly was the last lecturer and they had to turn away about two hundred! Then they sat up and began to take notice. There has been no radiocasting of lectures here, since the first of the year, until May, they begin again.

Then one of the members presented Second Church with a loudspeaker for the Sunday School Room. They got it installed the day of my lecture, so they could take care of that extra two hundred that couldn’t get in for Mr. Doorly. Well, they kept coming, on and on, up into the choir loft, into the Sunday School Room, all over the Foyer, lined up on the sidewalk listening through the windows that were open on one side. They crowded in wherever there was room for their toes, and still several hundred had to be turned away. It was the record crowd in the history of that church. Then when finally I said, “All that anyone can ever know about C.S. must be gained from Mary Baker Eddy and her writings,” — thundering applause! Then more of it when I concluded. Well, it was an ovation. And afterwards, they flocked to shake my hand and to thank me.

While I was speaking I could not but think how as a lad, I had to angle for a New York audience, — but now, well all this response

has been well earned. They rested in the hollow of my hand, so to speak.

Twenty four years ago I gave my first New York lecture and it was for Second Church in Madison Sq. Gardens, and John Lathrop introduced me. Well, I enjoyed this experience lots better!

Class has been picking up lately with new applicants, so I think there are now about twenty-eight, and two more weeks to go.

I wrote Mr. Rathvon yesterday offering to lecture for the Pleasant View Home next Wednesday. We could make the Concord visit with Manchester easily, and Carlotta will want to see it anyhow. We shall not need to return to Boston until Thursday morning.

All the family over here send love to you and I send all mine and a big welcome hug for Monday morning.

Lovingly,
Bliss

There are many evidences of the generosity of the Knapps to their relatives and friends. Sometime prior to the beginning of April 1929, Bliss had written his hard-working brother Ralph, an educator, offering to provide for himself and his wife, Ethel, a vacation at Mt. Kineo, Maine. Ralph, in a letter dated April 2, indicating that he would like to discuss the matter later when Bliss returned home, summarized, as if in answer to a "Who's Who" questionnaire, his accomplishments both in his profession and in his church work, to which he was devoted. He had been graduated from the Charles Sumner School in 1893, and from the Mechanic Arts School three years later, a member of the first graduating class. He attended Tufts College, 1896-97, Massachusetts Normal Art School, 1897-98, completing two years of a three-year program in one year. He began work as a drawing assistant at the Mechanic Arts High School in September 1898, passed his examinations for teaching in 1901, was promoted to instructor in 1909, to junior master in 1910, and to Master and Head of the Department in 1921. During his teaching career he constantly studied to improve his work, taking courses in design, life classes and other courses at Tufts and MIT. He drew the illustrations for a book on metallurgy, and aided Ludwig Frank in preparing a textbook on mechanical drawing. He had served on a number of committees working on the improvement of teaching of mechanical drawing.

Ralph's church work included twenty years as a Sunday School teacher, three years as First Reader in the branch church in Needham, and several opportunities to address Association meetings. Ralph's letter indicates a humble man of simple tastes: "I have worked hard for the things I have, but only in recent years have I discovered that people often misunderstand my motive. This uncovering of human nature and its modes of thinking, has made me more cautious and less trustful of my brother man. I am no less loving but I think I have learned more to act through understanding how to ask God to direct my footsteps." Ralph indicated also that he and Ethel had discovered a fine eating place to which they wanted to take the Knapps when Bliss returned.

Bliss's work for the lecture season 1928-29 ended with a lecture for The Mother Church, delivered in the Colonial Theater in Boston on May 14. This was a noon lecture, and it was followed by a luncheon at 7 Chatham Street to which Judge and Mrs. Greene, as well as Carlotta, who was still a house guest, were invited. This occasion was also the last social event before the convening of Mr. Knapp's class the next day. The two-week session was succeeded by a three-day auto trip through Maine and New Hampshire, in which the Knapps were accompanied by Carlotta and Bliss's brother, Sprague. Such excursions through the scenic sections of New England not only provided refreshment for the Knapps after an intensive period of work but also detachment from the telephone and from the swarm of visitors who usually pressed for interviews before and after class and Association meetings. For example, the day after their return, the Knapps entertained 19 visitors during the afternoon and evening. And on Annual Meeting Day, June 3, they had six guests to dinner.

At his Association meeting, June 25, Mr. Knapp pointed out that the By-Law in the *Manual* "indicates quite definitely that this is not a Teacher's Association, but a pupils' Association, and as we keep that in thought, we see why the students should cooperate in sustaining these meetings." He was proud of the achievement of his students in their records of healing. In choosing certain testimonies to read, he was placing emphasis on modes and methods of healing. He made reference to his recent lecturing abroad:

I have had more healing result from my Church lecture than from any other lecture I have ever given, but the larger portion of those cases of healing were reported from England and Europe. Very remarkable cases of healing were reported to me while in

England, and so frequently that I began to accept them as a matter of course.

He had noticed, he said, a falling off of such reports when he gave the same lecture in the United States, and he wondered why. It was, he believed, because the English mind was better trained than the American to obey that which it saw to be true. In the American audiences there was less serious thought of making the truths one's own and so getting some fruitage through radical reliance on those truths. And so he began asking his audiences, "What are you going to do with this truth now that you have it?" The following was one of the results:

A registered practitioner had been suffering for some days with the "flu." She was coughing and she thought at one time it would be unwise to attend the lecture, lest she disturb others. However, she went; and evidently the lecture would not have registered in her consciousness but for that challenge. The lecture was all a matter of course with her. Doubtless, she would have acknowledged in a flippant way that it was a good lecture, but that night, on retiring, she was getting her customary ten handkerchiefs ready for the night's coughing, in the customary lawless expectation of error, when suddenly those ringing words from the lecture forced themselves on her attention:— "What are *you* going to do with this healing truth, now that you have it?" For the first time the thought of obedience was registered in her consciousness. She put the handkerchiefs aside, went to bed naturally, and never woke until morning. Then she discovered she was perfectly healed.

Mr. Knapp also pointed out in this Association meeting that the attack on the *Manual* ten years previously had resulted in new support for the *Manual* on the part of all loyal Christian Scientists. He predicted that the Bill-Dittemore attack on Mrs. Eddy, then in progress, could only result in a clarification of Mrs. Eddy's role as the woman of the Apocalypse.

The day after the annual Association meeting, June 26, 35 students called to see the Knapps in the afternoon! The Knapps entertained so much at home that one wonders whether they ever accepted invitations to dine elsewhere. The months of June and July were so filled with entertaining that they were ready for another six-day motor trip through Maine

at the end of July. And whenever members of the family came for an extended visit, as Bella and Paul Mabury did (September 20 to October 25), there were sure to be trips lasting anywhere from a day to two weeks and including not only New England but also the Adirondacks and New York City.

Lecturing began again in the autumn, Eloise accompanying Bliss for a month, November 4 to December 3, then again for three days in New York in January (14–17), and again for several months (January 25 to April 30) to Florida, Texas, California, Oregon, Washington, and the Dakotas. Meanwhile they had celebrated Christmas at home, with seven guests to dinner. Eloise's card to Bliss on that day had obviously been chosen with much care; it read:

What made us friends in the long ago
When first we met? Well I think I know,
The best in me and the best in you
Hailed each other because they knew
That always and always, since life began
Our being friends was part of God's plan!

The lecture stint was interrupted in the first two weeks in May when Mr. Knapp returned to Boston to serve as First Reader in The Mother Church during George Shaw Cook's absence (apparently to teach his class). But immediately after the reading was concluded, Mr. Knapp was off again, lecturing through the rest of the month in the New York-New England area, and in June in the Chicago area.

At this time the Knapps decided to add to the size of the house by building rooms on the west end. The addition was completed during the summer, in time for Class, which was held August 13–26 in 1930, for a full complement of 30 students. Association day followed rapidly, on September 1, and 50 students had individual appointments on September 2. The "refresher" was, this time, a three-day jaunt to Cape Cod.

The fall of 1930 brought another of Eloise's sisters, Jeanie Fosbery and her husband Arthur, for a month of visiting, motoring, dining, and occasional evenings at the theater.

Despite early misgivings about broadcasting The Mother Church services or about using the medium of radio for the dissemination of Christian Science — as it seemed to him to require extensive metaphysical protec-

tion of such activities — Mr. Knapp did consent to give a talk on Science over the air.

The following letter indicates the response it elicited:

206 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts
November 4, 1930

Dear Mr. Knapp:

The talk which you gave over the radio last Sunday appealed to me as a very earnest and helpful statement about Christian Science. It was sound and well done.

This also is the opinion of a number of friends who were at my home listening in at the time.

Cordially yours,
George Wendell Adams

Because the radio broadcasts were not what Mr. Knapp called a “*Manual*-protected activity,” they seemed to him to demand much more specific protection than they were actually getting from the field.

Eloise’s birthday prompted the following, rather touching note:

February 22, 1931

My precious sweetheart:

Once Mrs. Eddy gave me a birthday present. It was the finest canary bird she had ever known. It was precious to her, and she must have loved the one to whose care she entrusted it. It symbolized upward soaring thoughts and maybe the song of Moses and of the Lamb, — the Thanksgiving that follows the victorious passage from sense to Soul. What a lesson if we but compass its height and vastness!

Your birthday gift today from the one who loves you is in two volumes, — the Bible and Science and Health. It opens to you and me the treasures of heaven. May you treasure these volumes in loving remembrance of this natal day is the wish of the one who treasures you with all my heart.

Lovingly thine,
Bliss.

The month of March combined the business of lecturing with the pleasure of driving a new Cadillac V-12 through Florida. The Knapps sent the car ahead by chauffeur, following themselves by train. There were lectures in St. Petersburg, Sarasota, Fort Myers, Miami, Palm Beach, Lake Wales, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville, and then, as they drove north, in Savannah, Charleston, Pinehurst (North Carolina), Staunton, Roanoke, Washington, Philadelphia, and New York. Apparently they rejoiced in this 3,500 mile drive, as Eloise saw fit to record it in red ink in her diary.

The years around 1930 were full of attacks upon the reputation of the Leader of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy. To list just a few, 1929 had brought Annie C. Bill's *Christian Science versus Plagiarism* (London and Washington: A. A. Beauchamp) and Edwin F. Dakin's *Mrs. Eddy: The Biography of a Virginal Mind* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons), and 1932 the Bates-Dittemore biography called *Mary Baker Eddy: The Truth and the Tradition* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf). Attack was in the air, and Mr. Knapp was taking advantage of every opportunity to offset these sallies upon the reputation of one who had lived only to extend the blessing of Christ-like healing to all who needed it.

Two letters, one to the Bible Lesson Committee and one to Israel Pickens's secretary, indicate Mr. Knapp's concern:

December 23, 1929

The Christian Science Bible Lesson Committee
206 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Friends:

I have been so happy in studying the lesson on Christian Science for next Sunday that I must write you about it. All the lessons have been exceedingly helpful, but this one on Christian Science is so exceptionally good and timely, I am impelled to send you a word of praise because it meets the present attack on Mrs. Eddy. This lesson, I believe, will benefit the Cause in a way that nothing else could; just when so many books are seeking to drag our Leader down in a manner described in Revelation, eleventh chapter. This lesson seeks to lift her and her work into prophecy, — the six sections of the lesson meet the present need

effectually, and will arm Christian Scientists with necessary arguments in overcoming these misrepresentations, and the very first Bible reference strikes the keynote. . . .

Bliss Knapp

Handwritten flourish

7 Chatham Street
Brookline, Massachusetts
March 30, 1931

Miss Richard Snead
1023 Commercial Building
Birmingham, Alabama

Dear Miss Snead:

I am glad to have your letter of March 25 which uncovers the situation that you are battling. Yes, I am certain you should tell Mr. Pickens exactly what is going on. Error uncovered is two-thirds destroyed and the other third will be self-destroyed.

In regard to the lack of class applicants to which you refer, I believe that is attributable to the attack on Mrs. Eddy. For instance, I examined an applicant a few days ago who was brought up in the Christian Science Sunday School. My questions disclosed that he had been reading the attacks on Mrs. Eddy and this was his present condition. He still knew that Christian Science is true and that Christian Science means everything to him. The attacks on Mrs. Eddy made him think that he could sweep her aside, make no great importance out of the attack after all, but simply carve her out of the situation and retain the Science which would enable him to work out his own salvation. Before I got through with him that state of mind naturally was corrected. But in thinking that proposition over I asked myself the question, that young man knew that Christian Science is true before the attack against Mrs. Eddy appeared and the attack, although it unsettled him in regard to Mrs. Eddy, did not unsettle him in regard to the Science itself. For that reason it was easy to clear up the situation. Now on the other hand, take the individual who has not yet discovered that

Christian Science is true. The effect on him of reading those attacks against Mrs. Eddy is to grow cold in regard to even the teachings of Science and not desire to go forward with class instruction on a subject which has become questionable as a result of his attitude towards Mrs. Eddy.

Is it not easy for you to see from this explanation that the attack is not against any one teacher or a group of teachers, but the lack of applicants for class is directly traceable to the effort of evil to discredit Mrs. Eddy, God's messenger. Remember, when the disciples deserted Jesus, that on his walk to Emmaus he lifted the thought of those two to see his place in prophecy, in God's plan of salvation, and therefore they did not desert him nor his cause once they saw his place in prophecy.

Please stress that point in your work. Stress Mrs. Eddy's place in prophecy. Ponder it. Grow into the depths of the realization of it, and so lift your thought to such an altitude in regard to Mrs. Eddy's place in prophecy, as to wipe out these local attacks on her. Then your patients will want to go forward. They will want the class instruction which will teach them more of this plan of salvation.

Won't you please hand this along to Mr. Pickens with my love.
With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,
Bliss Knapp

In order to concentrate more fully on the healing and teaching work, Bliss Knapp saw fit to resign, finally, from the Lecture Board in April. The First Reader of The Mother Church wrote him on this occasion:

385 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, April 10, 1931

Dear Bliss:

I have been intending to write you a line since I saw the formal announcement of your retirement from the lecture field.

It would be difficult to estimate the good you have done through your lecture work covering many years, but I readily appreciate your feeling that you would like to have more time for the healing and teaching. There is nothing more important to the

welfare of our Cause than conscientious, consecrated, effectual work in that field. . . .

George Shaw Cook

That the decision to retire from lecturing was based solely on Mr. Knapp's desire to devote his full efforts to healing and teaching and not on any lack of invitations to lecture is indicated in a statement which he wrote in his Association address for 1948: "The year before I retired from the Board of Lectureship, I received between eight and nine hundred invitations to lecture for that single year. That was about a third of all the churches and societies listed in the Journal."

So ended a segment of Bliss Knapp's lifelong service to the Cause of Christian Science, a segment which had been initiated by Mrs. Eddy herself and which had lasted, with several interruptions for other types of service, for twenty-seven years. Rich in adventures, it was a career which had surmounted all the hazards imposed by tight schedules, uncertain transportation, weather and opposition to Christian Science. Most significant of all its aspects was the constant flow of gratitude for healings accomplished at the lectures. Such were the rewards of obedience to the Leader.