

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

"That system is most divine which is most effective and which is most in accord with the spirit of Christ" (Canon Plumtre).

As there is nothing but God, there is in reality only good. There is, therefore, only one false representation of God, one material, universal consciousness, called by scientific men the ether, by others the devil and mortal mind, and if we scientifically destroy the evil thought as it first presents itself to our own individual so-called consciousness, it is destroyed for all. In thus fulfilling our responsibility we are, fortunately, one step nearer the end of the so-called material world.

Judgment-Day.—*"For the ear trieth words, as the mouth tasteth meat. Let us choose to us judgment: let us know among ourselves what is good"* (Job 34:3, 4).

This destruction of evil is what is spoken of throughout the Bible as judgment. "All nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest" (Rev. 15:4). "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things" (I Cor. 2:15). The meaning of "to judge" is "to point out or declare what is just"; the meaning of "judgment" is "the comparing of ideas to elicit truth" (*Chambers's Dictionary*). When, passing along the street, we see the evil and compare ideas, and declare what is just, judgment takes place and the evil is destroyed. "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24). "To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice" (Prov. 21:3). "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: . . . And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man" (John 5:22, 27). "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?" (I Cor. 6:2). "I can of mine own self do nothing; as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just" (John 5:30). It is absolute justice, that if you think rightly by turning to God, the evil should be destroyed, as all is mental, and God the Principle of good. The material man never made his "consciousness," and never made the ethereal "thoughts" that attack him. Why should he allow himself to be punished by believing the lie? "The Lord is known by the judgment which he executeth" (Ps. 9:16).

Judgment takes place daily, however, every time one reverses a wrong thought. It is this constant judgment that leads to righteousness, by the purification of the so-called mind. "For when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness" (Isa. 26:9). "When we are judged, we are chastened [made pure] of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world" (I Cor. 11:32). "Judgment-day as used in the Scriptures, signifies the final destruction of all evil, all sin, sickness, worry, and every limitation, which takes place at the end, by the action and reaction of right thinking. "The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). This results in consentaneous conscious; mental action of the whole body of right thinkers. "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained"

(Acts 17:31). "It is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness" (Acts 10:42, 43). "My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me,¹ and on mine arm shall they trust" (Isa. 51:5). "Which executeth judgment for the oppressed" (Ps. 146:7). "Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness" (Isa. 1:27).

10 "So let it be. In God's own might
We gird us for the coming fight.
And strong in Him Whose cause is ours,
In conflict with unholy powers,
We grasp the weapons He has given—
The light, and truth, and love of heaven" (*Whittier*).

15 "And the most High shall appear upon the seat of judgment, and misery shall pass away, and the long suffering shall have an end: But judgment only shall remain, truth shall stand, and faith shall wax strong: And the work shall follow, and the reward shall be shewed, and the good deeds shall be of force, and wicked deeds shall bear no rule" (II Esdras 7:33-35).

20 This gives each of us an enormous responsibility. Not only every wrong thought that comes into our consciousness should be "judged," but every single thing that we do should be prayed for—"judged." "If the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?" (I Cor. 6:2). We must be always either harming or helping ourselves and others. Which are we going to do?

25 "Upon every side we hear the prophecy of a great religious revival which is to sweep over all Christendom. Scarcely a day goes by in which this prophecy is not repeated in some religious paper, or by some minister whose sermon is reported in the daily press . . . referred to as fore-runners of an extensive or universal revival which shall awaken the people of all Christian lands" (Archibald McLellan).

30 Let us not delay and so put off the time of deliverance that awaits us. "It is your duty to yourself to make each day a success." "We are making to-morrow's character to-day. . . . Faithfulness to-day is the only way to ensure success in some distant to-morrow" (*Great Thoughts*).

35 "Choose You This Day."—"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2). "Jesus saith, except ye fast to the world² ye shall in nowise find the kingdom of God; and except ye make the sabbath a real sabbath,³ ye shall not see the Father" (*New Sayings of Jesus, from the Oxyrhynchus Papyri*).

40 There has now been set forth the fundamental law that governs all existence, and rests upon demonstrated proofs. Each individual can test and prove for himself the truths of this law of ever-present Life, omnipotent Mind, ever-present good, God, and accept or reject it. The question here presents itself as to how far one has any power of choice as to the acceptance, or otherwise, of the ruling of unalterable law, and how such
45 choice could affect our life experience.

¹ "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10).

² *Think not of the material things.*

³ *Sabbath means rest.*

Moses, probably the greatest natural statesman, or, to speak more accurately, the greatest natural lawgiver the world has ever seen, after setting before a great race the law of life and its contradictory opposite of death, says: "Choose life" (Deut. 30:19), the Life that is God, the law of Soul; and later in history the great leader, his successor Joshua, reminding them again of this law, said: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (Josh. 24:15). Anyone reading this book will at once see that a deep significance attaches to these words as to choice, and there is now no shadow of doubt as to their meaning. It goes without saying that life is governed by law, and equally that to oppose fundamental law is impossible. So the power of choice lies merely in whether we willingly accept and obey the law of God, good, by right thinking, or live in seeming opposition to it, dwelling upon the opposite thoughts of evil, with all the attendant worries and troubles that must then result. The word "seeming" is used advisedly, for the startling fact remains, that the inevitable end reached will be the same—eternal good.

The Apparent Law of Evil.—"*There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked*" (Isa. 48:22).

Then comes the question, In what lies the importance of any individual or collective choice or action? Simply this: the difference it makes to us *now*. A period of opposition or contradiction to the ruling of the law of good can only be at best a series of attempts and failures, increasing limitations, hopes disappointed, scant happiness, mixed with worry and, more or less, discord; a life that proves, by its own failure to succeed in living, the fallacy of its imaginary laws of existence. But during such period, the fundamental law does not suspend action, and a man choosing evil is merely being self-conducted through a path of needless suffering towards his inevitable, conscious acceptance of the law of Life, the ever-active Principle of good, God, Spirit. We can only accept or reject a lie when it presents itself.

The Law of Good.—"*Who shall stand in his holy place? He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation*" (Ps. 24:3, 5).

From the point of willing obedience to and acceptance of the ruling of good, a life experience becomes one of increasingly harmonious conditions. Hope is fulfilled, joy exceeds anticipation. If disease at first appears, it is met and mastered, while there comes a growing sense of restful confidence in a never-failing law of good, ordering our affairs. Progress in all directions replaces limitations, proving every step of the way that progress is, must be, included in a *law* of infinite good.

Each one's responsibility to his fellow-man is to speak the truth as he knows it, and to continue in living up to an ever-advancing understanding of the great law of "infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation." It remains only for each and all to have for himself and themselves a period of (1) ignorance and sin, with their inevitable attendant suffering and discord, or (2) science and peace, with triumphant progress in infinite eternal good and joy unspeakable. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the time of the choice given by the great leader Joshua—"choose you *this*

day" (Josh. 24:15). Evidently the day on which the statement was made was the time recommended for choice, testing, and demonstration. This choice fortunately is free to all, being due to the action of God.

5 "For a cap and bells our lives we pay,
Bubbles we buy with a whole soul's tasking:
'Tis heaven alone that is given away,
'Tis only God may be had for the asking" (*J. R. Lowell*).

Why, indeed, should you suffer another needless pang when the solution of all problems lies opened up before us, within reach of all? This
10 solution is the covenant referred to throughout the Bible, the covenant between God and man, namely, that if man thinks good, has but one God, good, he will receive only good. It was on account of this covenant that Paul was able to say: "By the grace of God I am what I am" (I Cor. 15:10).
15 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).
"Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (Ps. 50:15).

LEARN TO PRAY RIGHTLY ¹

20 "*I may say to my critics, Try the experiments; investigate with care and patience as I have done. If, having examined, you discover imposture or delusion, proclaim it and say how it was done. But, if you find it to be a fact, avow it fearlessly, as 'by the everlasting law of honour you are bound to do'*" (Sir William Crookes, F.R.S.).

The whole of the facts laid before you show that the only intelligent
25 way of living is always to think rightly,² and this can only be done on a scientific basis. Progress demands greater scientific knowledge. We must plant our standard of thought on the rock of Christ,³ the spiritual idea, the true idea of God and His manifestation. Maintain it in place with truth, water it with activity, prune it with wisdom, guard it with love, and it will
30 become the tree of life, spreading in every direction, whose leaves are for the healing of nations, whose fruit—love, joy, peace, gentleness, meekness, etc.—enriches mankind; an immortal plant, whose seed is the seed of Truth, the seed that "is in itself" (Gen. 1:11), whose intelligence and substance are God. "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of
35 the river [the channel of pure thought], was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse" (Rev. 22:2, 3).

40 ¹ "My prayer, some daily good to do
To Thine, for Thee;
An offering pure of Love, whereto
God leadeth me" (*Mary Baker Eddy*).

² "To keep my mental home a sacred place" ("My Prayer," *Christian Science Sentinel*).

45 ³ I Corinthians 10, verse 4.