

MEDITATION

If one ponders for a moment, he will readily admit that Edison was in the kingdom of electricity; that is, he lived in it. One will also admit that if Edison was in that kingdom, so is everyone else, be he an American citizen, or an Australian aborigine, for the kingdom of electricity is no private enterprise, but it is universal and omnipresent on this earth.

Doubtless, however, Mr. Edison received a greater benefit from the electrical kingdom than others, for the simple reason that he continually used the things of that kingdom, and habitually meditated thereon, whereas others failed to do this. If others would seek the kingdom of electricity with the same earnestness and indefatigability as Edison did, they, too, would receive similar results.

Anyone who is at all familiar with the life of Jesus must admit that he was in the Kingdom of God, lived in it and of it. If this be admitted, it must be admitted that we are all in the Kingdom of God, be we Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, Barbarian, Scythian, bond or free, for Jesus did not claim that the Kingdom of God was any enterprise of his. He asserted over and over again that it was universal, omnipresent and free to all just in the degree that one sought it. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you," he said; and he spoke also of God being not alone his Father, but as your Father and my Father.

Others have not received the benefits accruing from being in this Kingdom to the same extent that Jesus did because they have not sought after and used the things of the Kingdom of God as he did. The beneficial effects will be found to be ours in the exact proportion that we diligently seek after the Kingdom of God and use the things thereof, no more, no less.

The things of the kingdom of electricity which are so familiar to us all today were not made or created by Mr. Edison. Not at all. They were discovered or invented. The word "invented" means discovered, coming as it does from the Latin root word meaning discovered. These great and marvelous things of the kingdom of electricity always have been here, waiting for someone to discover them, someone who had sufficient persistence and faith to seek them out.

So, too, the things of the Kingdom of God, from the infinitesimal to the infinite, have been here and right at hand, waiting only for someone with sufficient wisdom of the Christ to behold them and show them to a troubled world awaiting its redemption.

Jesus discovered the things of the Kingdom of God. The things of the Kingdom of God have been present down through the ages, and always will be so, but each one of us must discover the Kingdom of God for himself. One may listen to tales of the Kingdom of God, believe in them perhaps, but some time, in some way, each must discover the Kingdom of God for himself. Others have discovered the kingdom of electricity; others have discovered the Kingdom of God; others will continue to do so, but no one can discover these kingdoms for another. We may be told of them, even use them somewhat, but each must discover the kingdom of whatever it may be for himself.

Columbus discovered America, it is claimed, but the writer discovered it also, as has each one of us. It was old to many, but a new discovery to us when we made it, though probably it did not seem anything new or extraordinary, but just a natural thing. We were here and using the country called America long before we discovered it, and then one day we discovered that it was America. In the same manner must we discover the Kingdom of God.

As a matter of fact, electricity has been here always and used somewhat by people in exceedingly small ways, such as scuffing the foot along a rug and making a spark; yet, it was not until about 650 B.C. that an old Greek, called Thales, who lived in Miletus, discovered that there was a kingdom of electricity. He rubbed a piece of amber on a piece of dry fur, and bright blue sparks were emitted. Others had made sparks too, but they attributed nothing to it, but Thales meditated upon it.

Meditation has a peculiar quality. It carries one out into the unknown, and soon that unknown becomes the known. For instance, Watt saw the teapot lid rise and fall under the influence of the steam. So had thousands of others many, many times, but they never thought anything about it; just took it as a matter of course. Little Jamie Watt, however, meditated upon it. Maybe something like this: The steam caused the lid to rise because of the compression of the confined steam. When the lid opened up under the pressure and the steam escaped, the lid fell into place again. Now, if I could boil water inside something like a cylinder creating steam and confining it therein, then the pressure when it reached a certain point, could be made to shove a piston forward. If then, when the steam escaped, a spring of another expanding pressure of steam could act to send the piston back again, I could have a self-propelling vehicle. Thus meditating, he was carried out into the then unknown field of the steam engine, and before long that unknown became the known and commonplace.

So Thales meditated on the phenomena which he had seen, and out of that meditation and his slight use of the things of the kingdom of electricity have grown not only the name "electricity," for thus he named it from the Greek word "elektron," meaning amber, but all the marvelous things of the electrical kingdom which have since been discovered. There are yet many, many more wonderful things to be discovered by those who meditate.

Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Abraham, Jacob, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Jesus the Christ, Mary Baker Eddy, and many others, have told us about the Kingdom of God, even as Thales, Lord Kelvin, and others have told us about the kingdom of electricity. However, we are not so much interested in what they say as we are in what our Edison has discovered and said of the kingdom which he discovered; and neither are we so greatly interested in the sayings of others as we are in what Jesus the Christ tells us of his Kingdom, in which he lived and moved and had his being. He tells us many, many times, of that Kingdom of his; tells us time and time again to search for it, and not to stop searching until we find it. He knew that it was a Kingdom to be found, or he would not have been so insistent in our searching for it. He also knew that each one had to discover his Kingdom for himself; no one could find it for another, for did he not also say that because of our "importunity" we would be given that same Kingdom that he lived in? Then, as others have discovered other kingdoms, and Mary Baker Eddy the Christ Kingdom, ponder and meditate on the things of God, and you, too, will find before long that what was an unknown kingdom is now a known or recognized kingdom — the Kingdom of God.