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## CHAPTER XII — CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PRACTICE

### Supreme Court of Spirit

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15 I here present to my readers an allegory illustrative  
of the law of divine Mind and of the supposed laws of mat-  
ter and hygiene, an allegory in which the plea of Christian  
Science heals the sick.

#### **A mental court case**

18 Suppose a mental case to be on trial, as cases are tried  
in court. A man is charged with having committed liver-  
complaint. The patient feels ill, ruminates,  
and the trial commences. Personal Sense is  
21 the plaintiff. Mortal Man is the defendant. False Belief  
is the attorney for Personal Sense. Mortal Minds, Ma-  
teria Medica, Anatomy, Physiology, Hypnotism, Envy,  
24 Greed and Ingratitude, constitute the jury. The court-  
room is filled with interested spectators, and Judge  
Medicine is on the bench.

27 The evidence for the prosecution being called for, a  
witness testifies thus: —

30 I represent Health-laws. I was present on certain nights  
when the prisoner, or patient, watched with a sick friend.  
Although I have the superintendence of human affairs, I  
was personally abused on those occasions. I was told that

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1 I must remain silent until called for at this trial, when I  
would be allowed to testify in the case. Notwithstanding  
3 my rules to the contrary, the prisoner watched with the sick  
every night in the week. When the sick mortal was thirsty,  
the prisoner gave him drink. During all this time the pris-  
6 oner attended to his daily labors, partaking of food at ir-  
regular intervals, sometimes going to sleep immediately  
after a heavy meal. At last he committed liver-complaint,  
9 which I considered criminal, inasmuch as this offence is  
deemed punishable with death. Therefore I arrested Mor-  
tal Man in behalf of the state (namely, the body) and cast  
12 him into prison.

At the time of the arrest the prisoner summoned Physi-  
ology, Materia Medica, and Hypnotism to prevent his pun-  
15 ishment. The struggle on their part was long. Materia  
Medica held out the longest, but at length all these assist-  
ants resigned to me, Health-laws, and I succeeded in get-  
18 ting Mortal Man into close confinement until I should  
release him.

The next witness is called:—

21 I am Coated Tongue. I am covered with a foul fur,  
placed on me the night of the liver-attack. Morbid Secre-  
tion hypnotized the prisoner and took control of his mind,  
24 making him despondent.

Another witness takes the stand and testifies:—

I am Sallow Skin. I have been dry, hot, and chilled by  
27 turns since the night of the liver-attack. I have lost my  
healthy hue and become unsightly, although nothing on my  
part has occasioned this change. I practise daily ablutions  
30 and perform my functions as usual, but I am robbed of my

good looks.

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1 The next witness testifies: —

I am Nerve, the State Commissioner for Mortal Man.  
3 I am intimately acquainted with the plaintiff, Personal  
Sense, and know him to be truthful and upright, whereas  
Mortal Man, the prisoner at the bar, is capable of false-  
6 hood. I was witness to the crime of liver-complaint. I  
knew the prisoner would commit it, for I convey messages  
from my residence in matter, alias brain, to body.

9 Another witness is called for by the Court of Error  
and says: —

I am Mortality, Governor of the Province of Body, in  
12 which Mortal Man resides. In this province there is a stat-  
ute regarding disease, — namely, that he upon whose per-  
son disease is found shall be treated as a criminal and  
15 punished with death.

The Judge asks if by doing good to his neighbor, it is  
possible for man to become diseased, transgress the laws,  
18 and merit punishment, and Governor Mortality replies in  
the affirmative.

Another witness takes the stand and testifies: —

21 I am Death. I was called for, shortly after the report of

the crime, by the officer of the Board of Health, who protested that the prisoner had abused him, and that my presence was required to confirm his testimony. One of the prisoner's friends, Materia Medica, was present when I arrived, endeavoring to assist the prisoner to escape from the hands of justice, *alias* nature's so-called law; but my appearance with a message from the Board of Health changed the purpose of Materia Medica, and he decided at once that the prisoner should die.

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**Judge Medicine charges the jury**

1 The testimony for the plaintiff, Personal Sense, being closed, Judge Medicine arises, and with great solemnity  
3 addresses the jury of Mortal Minds. He analyzes the offence, reviews the testimony, and explains the law relating to liver-complaint.  
6 His conclusion is, that laws of nature render disease homicidal. In compliance with a stern duty, his Honor, Judge Medicine, urges the jury not to allow their judgment to be warped by the irrational, unchristian suggestions of Christian Science. The jury must regard in such cases only the evidence of Personal Sense against Mortal  
9 Man.  
12

As the Judge proceeds, the prisoner grows restless. His  
15 sallow face blanches with fear, and a look of despair and death settles upon it. The case is given to the jury. A brief consultation ensues, and the jury returns a verdict of "Guilty of liver-complaint in the first degree."

**Mortal Man sentenced**

18 Judge Medicine then proceeds to pronounce the solemn sentence of death upon the prisoner. Because he has loved his neighbor as himself, Mortal Man has

21 been guilty of benevolence in the first degree,  
and this has led him into the commission of the second  
24 crime, liver-complaint, which material laws condemn as  
homicide. For this crime Mortal Man is sentenced to  
be tortured until he is dead. "May God have mercy on  
your soul," is the Judge's solemn peroration.

27 The prisoner is then remanded to his cell (sick-bed),  
and Scholastic Theology is sent for to prepare the fright-  
ened sense of Life, God, — which sense must be immortal,  
30 — for *death*.

### **Appeal to a higher tribunal**

Ah! but Christ, Truth, the spirit of Life and the  
friend of Mortal Man, can open wide those prison doors

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1 and set the captive free. Swift on the wings of divine  
Love, there comes a despatch: "Delay the execution;  
3 the prisoner is not guilty." Consternation fills  
the prison-yard. Some exclaim, "It is con-  
trary to law and justice." Others say,  
6 "The law of Christ supersedes *our* laws; let us follow  
Christ."

### **Counsel for defence**

After much debate and opposition, permission is ob-  
9 tained for a trial in the Court of Spirit, where Christian  
Science is allowed to appear as counsel for  
the unfortunate prisoner. Witnesses, judges  
12 and jurors, who were at the previous Court of Error,  
are now summoned to appear before the bar of Justice

and eternal Truth.

15 When the case for Mortal Man *versus* Personal Sense  
is opened, Mortal Man's counsel regards the prisoner  
with the utmost tenderness. The counsel's earnest,  
18 solemn eyes, kindling with hope and triumph, look up-  
ward. Then Christian Science turns suddenly to the  
supreme tribunal, and opens the argument for the  
21 defence: —

The prisoner at the bar has been unjustly sentenced.  
His trial was a tragedy, and is morally illegal. Mortal  
24 Man has had no proper counsel in the case. All the test-  
imony has been on the side of Personal Sense, and we shall  
unearth this foul conspiracy against the liberty and life of  
27 Man. The only valid testimony in the case shows the  
alleged crime never to have been committed. The pris-  
oner is not proved "worthy of death, or of bonds."

30 Your Honor, the lower court has sentenced Mortal Man  
to die, but God made Man immortal and amenable to  
Spirit only. Denying justice to the body, that court com-

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1 mended man's immortal Spirit to heavenly mercy, — Spirit  
which is God Himself and Man's only lawgiver! Who or  
3 what has sinned? Has the body or has Mortal Mind  
committed a criminal deed? Counsellor False Belief has  
argued that the body should die, while Reverend Theology  
6 would console conscious Mortal Mind, which alone is capa-  
ble of sin and suffering. The body committed no offence.  
Mortal Man, in obedience to higher law, helped his fellow-  
9 man, an act which should result in good to himself as well

as to others.

12 The law of our Supreme Court decrees that whosoever  
13 *sinneth* shall die; but good deeds are immortal, bringing  
14 joy instead of grief, pleasure instead of pain, and life  
15 instead of death. If liver-complaint was committed by  
16 trampling on Laws of Health, this was a good deed, for the  
17 agent of those laws is an outlaw, a destroyer of Mortal  
18 Man's liberty and rights. Laws of Health should be sen-  
tenced to die.

21 Watching beside the couch of pain in the exercise of a  
22 love that "is the fulfilling of the law," — doing "unto  
23 others as ye would that they should do unto you," — this  
24 is no infringement of law, for no demand, human or divine,  
25 renders it just to punish a man for acting justly. If mor-  
26 tals sin, our Supreme Judge in equity decides what penalty  
27 is due for the sin, and Mortal Man can suffer only for his  
sin. For naught else can he be punished, according to the  
law of Spirit, God.

30 Then what jurisdiction had his Honor, Judge Medicine,  
31 in this case? To him I might say, in Bible language, "Sit-  
32 test thou to judge . . . after the law, and commandest . . .  
33 to be smitten contrary to the law?" The only jurisdiction  
to which the prisoner can submit is that of Truth, Life, and  
Love. If they condemn him not, neither shall Judge Medi-  
cine condemn him; and I ask that the prisoner be restored  
to the liberty of which he has been unjustly deprived.

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1 The principal witness (the officer of the Health-laws)  
2 deposed that he was an eye-witness to the good deeds for  
3 which Mortal Man is under sentence of death. After be-  
traying him into the hands of your law, the Health-agent  
disappeared, to reappear however at the trial as a witness

6 against Mortal Man and in the interest of Personal Sense,  
a murderer. Your Supreme Court must find the pris-  
9 oner on the night of the alleged offence to have been acting  
within the limits of the divine law, and in obedience  
thereto. Upon this statute hangs all the law and testimony.  
12 Giving a cup of cold water in Christ's name, is a Christian  
service. Laying down his life for a good deed, Mortal Man  
should find it again. Such acts bear their own justifica-  
tion, and are under the protection of the Most High.

15 Prior to the night of his arrest, the prisoner summoned  
two professed friends, Materia Medica and Physiology, to  
18 prevent his committing liver-complaint, and thus save him  
from arrest. But they brought with them Fear, the sheriff,  
to precipitate the result which they were called to prevent.  
It was Fear who handcuffed Mortal Man and would now  
21 punish him. You have left Mortal Man no alternative.  
He must obey your law, fear its consequences, and be pun-  
ished for his fear. His friends struggled hard to rescue the  
24 prisoner from the penalty they considered justly due, but  
they were compelled to let him be taken into custody, tried,  
and condemned. Thereupon Judge Medicine sat in judg-  
27 ment on the case, and substantially charged the jury, twelve  
Mortal Minds, to find the prisoner guilty. His Honor sen-  
tenced Mortal Man to die for the very deeds which the di-  
30 vine law compels man to commit. Thus the Court of Error  
construed obedience to the law of divine Love as disobedi-  
ence to the law of Life. Claiming to protect Mortal Man  
33 in right-doing, that court pronounced a sentence of death  
for doing right.

One of the principal witnesses, Nerve, testified that he

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1 was a ruler of Body, in which province Mortal Man resides.



3 He also testified that he was on intimate terms with the  
plaintiff, and knew Personal Sense to be truthful; that he  
knew Man, and that Man was made in the image of God,  
but was a criminal. This is a foul aspersion on man's  
6 Maker. It blots the fair escutcheon of omnipotence. It in-  
dicates malice aforethought, a determination to condemn  
Man in the interest of Personal Sense. At the bar of Truth,  
9 in the presence of divine Justice, before the Judge of our  
higher tribunal, the Supreme Court of Spirit, and before  
its jurors, the Spiritual Senses, I proclaim this witness,  
12 Nerve, to be destitute of intelligence and truth and to be  
a false witness.

15 Man self-destroyed; the testimony of matter respected;  
Spirit not allowed a hearing; Soul a criminal though  
recommended to mercy; the helpless innocent body tor-  
tured, — these are the terrible records of your Court of  
18 Error, and I ask that the Supreme Court of Spirit reverse  
this decision.

21 Here the opposing counsel, False Belief, called Chris-  
tian Science to order for contempt of court. Various  
notables — Materia Medica, Anatomy, Physiology, Scho-  
lastic Theology, and Jurisprudence — rose to the ques-  
24 tion of expelling Christian Science from the bar, for such  
high-handed illegality. They declared that Christian Sci-  
ence was overthrowing the judicial proceedings of a regu-  
27 larly constituted court.

30 But Judge Justice of the Supreme Court of Spirit over-  
ruled their motions on the ground that unjust usages  
were not allowed at the bar of Truth, which ranks above  
the lower Court of Error.

The attorney, Christian Science, then read from the

33 supreme statute-book, the Bible, certain extracts on the

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1 Rights of Man, remarking, that the Bible was better authority than Blackstone: —

3 Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion.

6 Behold, I give unto you power . . . over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

9 Then Christian Science proved the witness, Nerve, to be a perjurer. Instead of being a ruler in the Province of Body, in which Mortal Man was reported to reside, Nerve was an insubordinate citizen, putting in false claims to office and bearing false witness against Man. Turning suddenly to Personal Sense, by this time silent, Christian Science continued: —

15 I ask your arrest in the name of Almighty God on three distinct charges of crime, to wit: perjury, treason, and conspiracy against the rights and life of man.

18 Then Christian Science continued:

Another witness, equally inadequate, said that on the

21 night of the crime a garment of foul fur was spread over  
him by Morbid Secretion, while the facts in the case show  
24 that this fur is a foreign substance, imported by False Be-  
lief, the attorney for Personal Sense, who is in partnership  
with Error and smuggles Error's goods into market with-  
out the inspection of Soul's government officers. When  
27 the Court of Truth summoned Furred Tongue for examina-  
tion, he disappeared and was never heard of more.

Morbid Secretion is not an importer or dealer in fur, but  
we have heard Materia Medica explain how this fur is  
30 manufactured, and we know Morbid Secretion to be on  
friendly terms with the firm of Personal Sense, Error, &

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1 Co., receiving pay from them and introducing their goods  
into the market. Also, be it known that False Belief, the  
3 counsel for the plaintiff, Personal Sense, is a buyer for this  
firm. He manufactures for it, keeps a furnishing store,  
and advertises largely for his employers.

6 Death testified that he was absent from the Province of  
Body, when a message came from False Belief, command-  
ing him to take part in the homicide. At this request  
9 Death repaired to the spot where the liver-complaint was  
in process, frightening away Materia Medica, who was then  
manacled the prisoner in the attempt to save him. True,  
12 Materia Medica was a misguided participant in the misdeed  
for which the Health-officer had Mortal Man in custody,  
though Mortal Man was innocent.

15 Christian Science turned from the abashed witnesses,  
his words flashing as lightning in the perturbed faces

18 of these worthies, Scholastic Theology, Materia Medica,  
Physiology, the blind Hypnotism, and the masked Personal Sense, and said: —

21 God will smite you, O whited walls, for injuring in your  
ignorance the unfortunate Mortal Man who sought your  
aid in his struggles against liver-complaint and Death.  
24 You came to his rescue, only to fasten upon him an offence  
of which he was innocent. You aided and abetted Fear  
and Health-laws. You betrayed Mortal Man, meanwhile  
27 declaring Disease to be God's servant and the righteous  
executor of His laws. Our higher statutes declare you all,  
witnesses, jurors, and judges, to be offenders, awaiting the  
30 sentence which General Progress and Divine Love will  
pronounce.

33 We send our best detectives to whatever locality is reported  
to be haunted by Disease, but on visiting the spot,  
they learn that Disease was never there, for he could not

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1 possibly elude their search. Your Material Court of Errors,  
when it condemned Mortal Man on the ground of hygienic  
3 disobedience, was manipulated by the oleaginous machinations  
of the counsel, False Belief, whom Truth arraigns  
before the supreme bar of Spirit to answer for his crime.  
6 Morbid Secretion is taught how to make sleep befool reason  
before sacrificing mortals to their false gods.

9 Mortal Minds were deceived by your attorney, False Belief,  
and were influenced to give a verdict delivering Mortal  
Man to Death. Good deeds are transformed into crimes,  
to which you attach penalties; but no warping of justice  
12 can render disobedience to the so-called laws of Matter  
disobedience to God, or an act of homicide. Even penal

15 law holds homicide, under stress of circumstances, to be  
justifiable. Now what greater justification can any deed  
have, than that it is for the good of one's neighbor? Where-  
18 fore, then, in the name of outraged justice, do you sentence  
Mortal Man for ministering to the wants of his fellow-man  
in obedience to divine law? You cannot trample upon the  
decree of the Supreme Bench. Mortal Man has his appeal  
21 to Spirit, God, who sentences only for sin.

The false and unjust beliefs of your human mental legis-  
lators compel them to enact wicked laws of sickness and so  
24 forth, and then render obedience to these laws punishable  
as crime. In the presence of the Supreme Lawgiver, stand-  
ing at the bar of Truth, and in accordance with the divine  
27 statutes, I repudiate the false testimony of Personal. Sense.  
I ask that he be forbidden to enter against Mortal Man  
any more suits to be tried at the Court of Material Error.  
30 I appeal to the just and equitable decisions of divine Spirit  
to restore to Mortal Man the rights of which he has been  
deprived.

### **Charge of the Chief Justice**

33 Here the counsel for the defence closed, and the Chief  
Justice of the Supreme Court, with benign and imposing

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1 presence, comprehending and defining all law and evi-  
dence, explained from his statute-book, the  
3 Bible, that any so-called law, which under-  
takes to punish aught but sin, is null and void.

6 He also decided that the plaintiff, Personal Sense, be  
not permitted to enter any suits at the bar of Soul, but

9 be enjoined to keep perpetual silence, and in case of  
temptation, to give heavy bonds for good behavior. He  
concluded his charge thus: —

12 The plea of False Belief we deem unworthy of a hearing.  
Let what False Belief utters, now and forever, fall into  
oblivion, "unknelled, uncoffined, and unknown." Accord-  
ing to our statute, Material Law is a liar who cannot bear  
15 witness against Mortal Man, neither can Fear arrest Mortal  
Man nor can Disease cast him into prison. Our law refuses  
to recognize Man as sick or dying, but holds him to be for-  
18 ever in the image and likeness of his Maker. Reversing the  
testimony of Personal Sense and the decrees of the Court of  
Error in favor of Matter, Spirit decides in favor of Man  
and against Matter. We further recommend that Materia  
21 Medica adopt Christian Science and that Health-laws,  
Mesmerism, Hypnotism, Oriental Witchcraft, and Esoteric  
24 Magic be publicly executed at the hands of our sheriff,  
Progress.

27 The Supreme Bench decides in favor of intelligence, that  
no law outside of divine Mind can punish or reward Mortal  
Man. Your personal jurors in the Court of Error are  
myths. Your attorney, False Belief, is an impostor, per-  
30 suading Mortal Minds to return a verdict contrary to law  
and gospel. The plaintiff, Personal Sense, is recorded in  
our Book of books as a liar. Our great Teacher of mental  
jurisprudence speaks of him also as "a murderer from the  
33 beginning." We have no trials for sickness before the tri-

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1 bunal of divine Spirit. There, Man is adjudged innocent  
of transgressing physical laws, because there are no such  
3 laws. Our statute is spiritual, our Government is divine.  
"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

### **Divine verdict**

6 The Jury of Spiritual Senses agreed at once upon a  
verdict, and there resounded throughout the vast audience-  
chamber of Spirit the cry, Not guilty. Then  
the prisoner rose up regenerated, strong, free.  
9 We noticed, as he shook hands with his counsel, Chris-  
tian Science, that all sallowness and debility had dis-  
appeared. His form was erect and commanding, his  
12 countenance beaming with health and happiness. Divine  
Love had cast out fear. Mortal Man, no longer sick  
and in prison, walked forth, his feet "beautiful upon the  
15 mountains," as of one "that bringeth good tidings."

### **Christ the great physician**

18 Neither animal magnetism nor hypnotism enters into  
the practice of Christian Science, in which truth cannot  
be reversed, but the reverse of error is true.  
An improved belief cannot retrograde. When  
Christ changes a belief of sin or of sickness into  
21 a better belief, then belief melts into spiritual understand-  
ing, and sin, disease, and death disappear. Christ, Truth,  
gives mortals temporary food and clothing until the ma-  
24 terial, transformed with the ideal, disappears, and man  
is clothed and fed spiritually. St. Paul says, "Work  
out your own salvation with fear and trembling:" Jesus  
27 said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good  
pleasure to give you the kingdom." This truth is  
Christian Science.

30 Christian Scientists, be a law to yourselves that mental  
malpractice cannot harm you either when asleep or when  
awake.