

TO ———, **ON PRAYER**

MASSACHUSETTS METAPHYSICAL COLLEGE,
571 COLUMBUS AVENUE,
BOSTON, March 21, 1885

Dear Sir. — In your communication to *Zion's Herald*, March 18, under the heading, "Prayer and Healing; supplemental," you state that you would "like to hear from Dr. Cullis; and, by the way, from Mrs. Eddy, also."

Because of the great demand upon my time, consisting in part of dictating answers through my secretary, or answering personally manifold letters and inquiries from all quarters, — having charge of a church, editing a magazine, teaching Christian Science, receiving calls, etc., — I find it inconvenient to accept your invitation to answer you through the medium of a newspaper; but, for information as to what I believe and teach, would refer you to the Holy Scriptures, to my various publications, and to my Christian students.

It was with a thrill of pleasure that I read in your article these words: "If we have in any way misrepresented either Dr. Cullis or Mrs. Eddy, we are sorry." Even the desire to be just is a vital spark of Christianity. And those words inspire me with the hope that you wish to be just.

If this is so, you will not delay corrections of the statement you make at the close of your article, when referring to me, "the pantheistic and prayer less Mrs. Eddy, of Boston."

It would be difficult to build a sentence of so few words conveying ideas more opposite to the fact.

In refutation of your statement that I am a pantheist, I request you to read my sermons and publications.

As to being "prayer less," I call your attention and deep consideration to the following Scripture, that voices my impressions of prayer: —

"When thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love

to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men.

. . . But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

I hope I am not wrong in literally following the dictum of Jesus; and, were it not because of my desire to set you right on this question, I should feel a delicacy in making the following statement: —

Three times a day, I retire to seek the divine blessing on the sick and sorrowing, with my face toward the Jerusalem of Love and Truth, in silent prayer to the Father which "seeth in secret," and with childlike confidence that He will reward "openly." In the midst of depressing care and labor I turn constantly to divine Love for guidance, and find rest. It affords me great joy to be able to attest to the truth of Jesus' words. Love makes all burdens light, it giveth a peace that passeth understanding, and with "signs following." As to the peace, it is unutterable; as to "signs," behold the sick who are healed, the sorrowful who are made hopeful, and the sinful and ignorant who have become "wise unto salvation"!

And now, dear sir, as you have expressed contrition for an act which you have immediately repeated, you are placed in this dilemma: To reiterate such words of apology as characterize justice and Christianity.

Very truly,
MARY BAKER G. EDDY