
CHAPTER VIII — FOOTSTEPS OF TRUTH

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Annihilation of error

27 Truth has no consciousness of error. Love has no sense of hatred. Life has no partnership with death. Truth, Life, and Love are a law of annihilation to everything unlike themselves, because they declare nothing except God.

Deformity and perfection

30 Sickness, sin, and death are not the fruits of Life. They are inharmonies which Truth destroys. Perfection does not animate imperfection. Inasmuch as God is

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1 good and the fount of all being, He does not produce
moral or physical deformity; therefore such deformity is
3 not real, but is illusion, the mirage of error.
Divine Science reveals these grand facts. On
their basis Jesus demonstrated Life, never
6 fearing nor obeying error in any form.

If we were to derive all our conceptions of man from
what is seen between the cradle and the grave, happi-
9 ness and goodness would have no abiding-place in man,
and the worms would rob him of the flesh; but Paul
writes: "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath
12 made me free from the law of sin and death."

Man never less than man

Man undergoing birth, maturity, and decay is like the
beasts and vegetables, — subject to laws of decay. If
15 man were dust in his earliest stage of exist-
ence, we might admit the hypothesis that he
returns eventually to his primitive condition;
18 but man was never more nor less than man.

If man flickers out in death or springs from matter into
being, there must be an instant when God is without His
21 entire manifestation, — when there is no full reflection
of the infinite Mind.

Man not evolved

Man in Science is neither young nor old. He has
24 neither birth nor death. He is not a beast, a vegetable,
nor a migratory mind. He does not pass from
matter to Mind, from the mortal to the im-
27 mortal, from evil to good, or from good to evil. Such
admissions cast us headlong into darkness and dogma.
Even Shakespeare's poetry pictures age as infancy, as
30 helplessness and decadence, instead of assigning to man
the everlasting grandeur and immortality of development,
power, and prestige.

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1 The error of thinking that we are growing old, and the
benefits of destroying that illusion, are illustrated in a
3 sketch from the history of an English woman, published
in the London medical magazine called The Lancet.

Perpetual youth

6 Disappointed in love in her early years, she became
insane and lost all account of time. Believing that she
was still living in the same hour which parted
her from her lover, taking no note of years,
9 she stood daily before the window watching for her
lover's coming. In this mental state she remained young.
Having no consciousness of time, she literally grew no
12 older. Some American travellers saw her when she was
seventy-four, and supposed her to be a young woman.
She had no care-lined face, no wrinkles nor gray hair, but
15 youth sat gently on cheek and brow. Asked to guess her
age, those unacquainted with her history conjectured that
she must be under twenty.

18 This instance of youth preserved furnishes a useful
hint, upon which a Franklin might work with more cer-
tainty than when he coaxed the enamoured lightning
21 from the clouds. Years had not made her old, because
she had taken no cognizance of passing time nor thought
of herself as growing old. The bodily results of her belief
24 that she was young manifested the influence of such a be-
lief. She could not age while believing herself young, for
the mental state governed the physical.

27 Impossibilities never occur. One instance like the
foregoing proves it possible to be young at seventy-four;
and the primary of that illustration makes it plain that
30 decrepitude is not according to law, nor is it a necessity of
nature, but an illusion.

Man reflects God

The infinite never began nor will it ever end. Mind

1 and its formations can never be annihilated. Man is not
a pendulum, swinging between evil and good, joy and
3 sorrow, sickness and health, life and death.
Life and its faculties are not measured by
calendars. The perfect and immortal are the eternal
6 likeness of their Maker. Man is by no means a material
germ rising from the imperfect and endeavoring to reach
Spirit above his origin. The stream rises no higher than
9 its source.

The measurement of life by solar years robs youth and
gives ugliness to age. The radiant sun of virtue and truth
12 coexists with being. Manhood is its eternal noon, un-
dimmed by a declining sun. As the physical and mate-
rial, the transient sense of beauty fades, the radiance of
15 Spirit should dawn upon the enraptured sense with bright
and imperishable glories.

Undesirable records

Never record ages. Chronological data are no part
18 of the vast forever. Time-tables of birth and death are
so many conspiracies against manhood and
womanhood. Except for the error of meas-
21 uring and limiting all that is good and beautiful, man
would enjoy more than threescore years and ten and
still maintain his vigor, freshness, and promise. Man,
24 governed by immortal Mind, is always beautiful and
grand. Each succeeding year unfolds wisdom, beauty,
and holiness.

True life eternal

27 Life is eternal. We should find this out, and begin the
demonstration thereof. Life and goodness are immortal.
Let us then shape our views of existence into

30 loveliness, freshness, and continuity, rather
 than into age and blight.