

November 20, 2006 – Subject: Ancient and Modern Necromancy, alias Mesmerism and Hypnotism, Denounced.

Dear Friends: Mary Baker Eddy gave her students 26 subjects for weekly Bible Lessons, to be covered twice yearly. Flowing through the year in her order of the subjects, we hereby present fresh views of each one by outstanding Christian Scientists. In this way, we hope to partake with you of new unfoldments of her infinite revelation.

Our selection this week is from Richard Claude Haw.

HOW ARE WE TREATING THE WORLD?

A young Christian Scientist I know was greeted by someone with the question, "How's the world treating you these days?" Quickly my young friend answered, "The world isn't treating me. I'm treating it" How many of us are as alert to do our duty in regard to world problems?

In the past much was said of the fire and brimstone and the weeping and gnashing of teeth that would come upon people after death if they failed to toe the line of obedience to God. Today we are hearing a warning of the awesome dangers facing humanity, not in the hereafter, but here and now. These correlate with the prophecies of Christ Jesus given in Matthew, foreshadowing the second coming of the Christ. In Revelation, John's vision of Armageddon, the final battle between Spirit and matter, good and evil, is also relevant.

Although Christian Scientists see the promised Comforter as having been revealed on earth in 1866, with the discovery of Christian Science by Mary Baker Eddy, the general realization of this has yet to dawn on mankind. Meanwhile the activity of Truth has been mightily stirring human thought and has produced the tremendous ferment which the world is now witnessing. This is in preparation for the final spiritualization that must come. Mrs. Eddy says in *Science and Health*: "The breaking up of material beliefs may seem to be famine and pestilence, want and woe, sin, sickness, and death, which assume new phases until their nothingness appears. These disturbances will continue until the end of error, when all discord will be swallowed up in spiritual Truth."

Every Christian Scientist has a vital part to play in coping with these challenges. If we are not alert, we become part of the problem, instead of helping to bring the solution. Never has the world been in such peril;

nor has mankind ever felt more confused and anchorless. Yet the rays of spiritual Truth are dawning in human consciousness today as never before. Our work is to bring the moral and spiritual forces of the Christ to bear on the situation, so that the process will be kept under control. There is no room for complacency or dillydallying. The future of mankind is at stake.

Growing up in the sheltered environment of Christian Science, many children and young people may tend toward complacency, yet their generation will be in the very thick of the battle. If they are made aware of the dangers and of what is really happening in the world, and recognize that Christian Science alone holds the answers to these problems, they will be more alert to the need for the study and practice of Science.

Threats to mankind's survival come from many directions. Becoming aware of the threats, we handle the problems through our prayerful metaphysical work. Human knowledge and brain-centered intelligence, far from being able to rescue mankind from its problems, appear to be leading into deeper dangers. Natural science is belching forth voluminous new knowledge. Over 80 percent of the natural scientists who ever lived are said to be alive today, and their knowledge and inventions are sometimes put to use without the wisdom and moral guidance essential to proper control. This is where Christian Science has its part to play in establishing the government and control of the one infinite Mind, Love. As Scientists prayerfully realize that God, Spirit, the creator of the universe and man, is the only real substance and intelligence that man reflects, they will help displace the lawless beliefs of the counterfeit mortal mind.

One of the great technological discoveries of our time is that of nuclear energy. It could be an enormous blessing if used by people governed by the divine Mind; but left to the control of mortal mind, or animal magnetism, it is probably the darkest cloud looming over the world today. Even the presently stockpiled nuclear weapons could devastate the earth's surface.

Christian Scientists should not fear any of the claims that there are substance, intelligence, power, and reality in matter and evil, or mortal mind, but they owe it to mankind to do something about these claims.

The scientific truth about material energy and intelligence, is that it is the illusive counterfeit of the spiritual energy and intelligence of Mind, God. What mortals see as matter is ignorant mortal mind's misconception of the real substance and power of the universe Spirit, Mind. The physical scientist's view of matter has become increasingly abstract, mathematical; and this, as the Christian Scientist perceives, brings it more obviously into the mental realm, where it can be subjected to Mind's control.

Through prayer and study, we learn to dethrone evil powers, which are always mental. Wrong thoughts can always be corrected by Truth and replaced by the harmonious, spiritual ideas of Soul, which the real man reflects. The spiritual truth prayerfully acknowledged acts as a law to bring harmony into human affairs. Divine Science, through the Christ, Truth, can help to control the hateful, negative, destructive thoughts that cause wars and violence.

Another serious threat comes from the population explosion. It has taken millions of years for the human race to reach three and a half billion. Now it takes only about thirty years to double the number. Inasmuch as over half the world's population is already suffering from chronic hunger, according to United Nations sources, the prospect of finding the number doubled in a mere thirty years and quadrupled in sixty terrifies the human mind with implications of mass famine, falling standards, and violent revolutionary pressures.

The Christian Scientist looks at this picture as another of the presentments of animal magnetism. He is compassionate and practical in his approach, and he starts off by knowing that right where this sad picture claims to be, there is the very kingdom of heaven, where every child of God is abundantly cared for. Man is a spiritual being. He does not live in a material realm where there is a perpetual scramble for matter to sustain life. Spiritual ideas are limitless, and man reflects them without limit. True supply is never material, never in person, place, or thing. It is entirely spiritual, and when we realize the spiritual and universal nature of good, it is manifested to us in the form we can apprehend. Jesus said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

The supply to meet the temporal human need, whether it be for food, clothing or means of controlling population growth, is found

through utilizing the abundant ideas we reflect from universal Mind, God. Mankind's temporal needs are transformed into higher and more spiritual concepts as Christ, Truth, acts upon human consciousness through prayer, causing it to release its limiting beliefs in matter as substance or supply.

In the universe of illimitable Mind, there can be no overpopulation or lack of any kind. In truth, God is the only creator of man. The real man does not multiply through the Adam-dream of material creation, which is a counterfeit belief. The lawless sensualism of the carnal mind claiming to be creative can be effectively denied through the understanding of the spiritual creation of Mind. The real man is spiritual, perfect, immortal, complete, and satisfied, supplied with all good by his Father-Mother God. The picture of an overpopulated and starving world is no more real than that of a diseased body. It is an enlarged picture of an individually held illusion. But to destroy this illusion we have to know the counterfactuals, and handle metaphysically the claims of animal magnetism.

Another of the threats to mankind lies in wastage of natural resources. This is tied up with the population problem. Soil erosion is depleting the earth's productive capacity while human populations, already hungry, are rocketing. Erosion in the United States alone causes the loss of enough soil each year to fill a train reaching eighteen times around the earth! The call is for us to do prayerful metaphysical work about conservation and other problems. Are we doing it?

Natural resources are our present human concepts of God's spiritual resources or ideas. We need to spiritualize our concepts, and so become aware of the limitless realm of Mind, in which completeness and perfection are forever expressed. God's resources are His super-abundant ideas, and the real man reflects them. The truth of man's God-governed being brought to view by consecrated prayer can help transform human consciousness, control greed, and bring about wiser use of resources until men become aware of their God-sustained spiritual being. Mrs. Eddy says: "Christ, Truth, gives mortals temporary food and clothing until the material, transformed with the ideal, disappears, and man is clothed and fed spiritually." (Science and Health) In the spiritual realm demand and supply are ever in balance, and supply is, inexhaustible.

Another serious threat to life on this planet comes from pollution of the environment. Chemical pollutants, including biocides, have already turned many rivers into dangerous sewers, and even large lakes are being “killed” insofar as their natural biological renewal processes are concerned. Pollution of the atmosphere, the earth, and the wide oceans is endangering animal life on an unprecedented scale. There have even been warnings that a critical stage in the world’s oxygen supply could suddenly be reached.

An even more serious form of pollution is that affecting the minds of people. Crime, drugging, immorality, hypnotism, racialism, violent revolution, and so on, are polluted forms of thinking; and they are posing a mounting threat, which is spreading through the earth. The abandonment of moral and spiritual values has destroyed previous civilizations. Christian Science is with us today to save mankind, but it must be practiced.

We view the pollution situation as one calling for purification of thought and deed. The best contribution we can make is to purify ourselves of all material, sensual, hateful, diseased, sinful beliefs and spiritualize consciousness so that we will be better witnesses for Truth. By knowing that divine Principle, Mind, Soul, Love, is the only law governing the universe and man, we help to dispel the belief that hedonistic, selfish, or greedy mortal mind can pollute the world with its filth. All the evils plaguing mankind are part of the one evil – animal magnetism, the belief of substance, life, and intelligence in matter and electricity. The remedy for animal magnetism is the pure understanding of the one omnipotent Mind, Spirit, God. This calls for the spiritualization and purification of thought, and the systematic nullification of all satanic beliefs in a power opposed to God. The vast mental chemicalization signifies evil’s impending doom, but we do not have to share that doom. The Christ presence that accompanied the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace, can deliver God’s children today.

The turmoil and changes in the so-called material realm that we see as world chemicalization are an essential preliminary to the coming of the spirit of Truth to mankind. When the material universe with all its evils is seen as a mental image projected by the unilluminated human mind, we are in a position to replace the false mental picture

with the true. This is how we will gain the dominion over all the earth, which God gave to His idea, man.

Mrs. Eddy makes an imperative call to all Christian Scientists in Miscellaneous Writings where she says: "Never was there a more solemn and imperious call than God makes to us all, right here, for fervent devotion and an absolute consecration to the greatest and holiest of all causes. The hour is come. The great battle of Armageddon is upon us." She concludes with the appeal: "Will you give yourselves wholly and irrevocably to the great work of establishing the truth, the gospel, and the Science which are necessary to the salvation of the world from error, sin, disease, and death? Answer at once and practically, and answer aright!"

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