

LeBlond 1943 Association

Excerpts - Lois Over's Notes

INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRY

Individual industry has been the backbone of the growth of America. Nay more, we may say that individual industry conceived this country and its possibilities. When certain individuals in England called the Puritans realized there was no religious or economic freedom to be had there, they started out to establish a new religious and economic order. The first step in this direction was to Holland, but evidently the law already existing there prevented the freedom these individuals knew was possible, so they came to a new world where no set form of governmental enslavement existed. Here they would be free to set up a form of government, which would give the individual religious and economic freedom.

One basic fact should be seen by all, and that is that all progress in the world, all inventions, everything that constitutes better living is here because an individual first perceived the idea. If Benjamin Franklin had been forced to live under a government which limited his individual industry, the world today might not have in such perfect form the uses of electricity, the printing press, and the police and fire departments.

One needs only to turn to such a book as James Mussatti's "Constitutionalism" to see how over a period of 150 years before the writing of the Constitution of the United States this same idea of individual freedom was held high and uppermost in thinking. Since the time of the writing of the Constitution, the greatest progress has been made in the periods when the country realized the sanctity of individual freedom and enterprise. Our growth has been retarded when we have allowed fear, limitation and government regulation to dominate our thoughts and activities.

The idea of big business developed about 1870. This is very interesting since Mrs. Eddy's individual enterprise, the Christian Science Movement, was in formation at that time. The activity of thought which produced this world movement undoubtedly released thought in other lines -- to the acceptance of business on a more universal basis -- that is, bringing the products of business within the grasp of many more persons.

The telephone was the idea of an individual named Bell; the incandescent lamp was the idea of Thomas Edison; airplanes the idea of Curtis Wright; oil refining the idea of J.D. Rockefeller; the inexpensive automobile and mass production the idea of Henry Ford. Farm implements for better farming was the idea of Harold McCormick. What shall we say of Luther Burbank; Harvey Firestone, Andrew Carnegie? These are only a few of the outstanding achievements which this country has produced because of the freedom given the individual to carry out the industry of his own peculiar talent.

Seeing all this, how can any individual fail to see the danger in allowing government in this country and in others to make laws which take away from the

individual the freedom of his own creative thinking. Understanding the importance of thinking, I know you will agree that this, one of the greatest countries in the world, has become so, not because of geographic position or natural resources alone, but because of the freedom of thought to accomplish.

Individual enterprise is the demonstration of scientific being. The student finds this out by investigating the teachings of Christian Science. Too often the word enterprise is associated with the merely human sense of existence, but in as much as true individuality expresses God, we see that individual enterprise is related thereto. In fact, individuality is God, for Mrs. Eddy says

God sustains my individuality. Nay, more, He is my individuality and my Life.
(Un 48:7-9)

The enterprise of an individual is his individual activity. From this standpoint it is most enlightening to study the lives of Jesus and MBE, the two revelators of scientific Christianity. By the following statements of Jesus . . .

I and my Father are one. and He that hath seen me hath seen the Father, . . . we see that Jesus considered his individuality to be God. From that standpoint, then, his enterprise or activity was to heal the sick, sinning, and dying, and thus manifest God. The Bible says he went about doing his Father's business. This is told of him at the time of his being found in the temple conversing with the teachers, and when asked why he had left his family and had not told them he was going, he said,

Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? (Luke 2:49)

His individual enterprise not only included the healing of the sick, sinning and dying, but also the teaching of the God-Principle. His industry and understanding of his individuality supplied tax money at the time when he needed it. It supplied food for the five thousand. After the crucifixion, it is said that they cast lots for his garments, indicating that they must have been valuable. His enterprise clothed him in the best, manifesting his divine individuality. No government or law restricted his enterprise, for he healed on the Sabbath day, which was against the religious beliefs of those times. His individual enterprise dated the Christian era, in fact.

The individual enterprise of MBE was the establishment of a world wide activity, the Christian Science Movement, which today encircles the globe. her individuality expressed itself in the enterprise of writing and she gave the world the textbook, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, other writings, and a daily newspaper. These things she did in expression of her universal idea of scientific existence.

It is told of her

She chose the stubby old farm on the road from Concord, within one mile of the Eton of America, St. Paul's School. Once bought, the will of the woman set at work, and today a strikingly well-kept estate is the first impression given to the visitor as he approaches Pleasant View.

She employs a number of men to keep the grounds and farm in perfect order, and it was pleasing to learn that this rich woman is using her money to promote the welfare of industrious workmen, in whom she takes a vital interest . . . Indeed, one of her motives in buying so large an estate was that she might do something for the toilers, and thus add her influence toward the advancement of better home life and citizenship. (Pul 49)

Thus we see that Mrs. Eddy's enterprise was both individual and universal.

No government restricted the amount of land she could buy, the number of men she could employ, or the wages that she could pay. No government restricted her to a certain number of copies of her works or limited the pounds of paper required to publish them. Her individual enterprise based upon her understanding of true individuality included within itself all good toward all men.

True scientific government is based upon the perfection of the individual and not upon his seeming weaknesses of poverty, ill health, and incompetency, which many people believe are to be alleviated through the beneficence of government. Such individuality as we see expressed in Christ Jesus and MBE is symbolic of the government which Mrs. Eddy said,

Reflecting God's government, man is self-governed. (S&H 125:16)

It is absolutely necessary, because of world conditions, that the student of Christian Science see what is involved in what the world calls enterprise. It is not something human to be put up with for the moment and which will some day be done away with. It is to be seen and understood from a scientific basis. It makes no difference how much the principle of individual enterprise may have been abused in times past by those who have been handled by greed and dishonesty, the abuse of individual enterprise does not and cannot warrant its destruction. God being the individuality of man, His individual enterprise or activity must all the while grow in goodness, ingenuity, love and universality.