

MRS. EDDY REPLIES TO MARK TWAIN.

[Published by request]
New York Herald.

In answer to criticisms by Mark Twain, Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy makes the following statement:

It is a fact, well understood, that I begged the students who first gave me the endearing appellation "mother" not to name me thus. But without my consent that word spread like wildfire. I still must think the name is not applicable to me. I stand in relation to this century, as a Christian discoverer, founder, and leader. I regard self deification as blasphemous; I may be more loved, but I am less lauded, pampered, provided for, and cheered, than others before me—and wherefore? Because Christian Science is not yet popular, and I refuse adulation.

My first visit to the Mother Church after it was built and dedicated pleased me, and the situation was satisfactory. The dear members wanted to greet me with escort and the ringing of bells, but I declined, and went alone in my carriage to the church, entered it, and knelt in thanks upon the steps of its altar. There the foresplendor of the beginnings of truth fell mysteriously upon my spirit. I believe in one Christ, teach one Christ, know of but one Christ. I believe in but one incarnation, one Mother Mary, and know I am not that one, and never claimed to be. It suffices me to learn the Science of the Scriptures relative to this subject.

Christian Scientists have no quarrel with Protestants, Catholics, or any other sect. They need to be understood as following the Divine principle—God, Love—and not imagined to be unscientific worshippers of a human being.

In the aforesaid article, of which I have seen only extracts, Mark Twain's wit was not wasted in certain directions. Christian Science eschews divine rights in human beings. If the individual governed human consciousness, my statement of Christian Science would be disproved, but to understand the spiritual idea is essential to demonstrate Science and its pure monotheism,—one God, one Christ, no idolatry, no human propaganda. Jesus taught and proved that what feeds a few feeds

all. His life-work subordinated the material to the spiritual, and he left this legacy of truth to mankind. His metaphysics is not the sport of philosophy, religion, or Science, rather is it the pith and finale of them all.

I have not the inspiration or aspiration to be a first or second Virginia-Mother—her duplicate, antecedent, or subsequent. What I am remains to be proved by the good I do. We need much humility, wisdom, and love to perform the functions of foreshadowing and foretasting heaven within us. This glory is molten in the furnace of affliction.

MUST MAKE US LAUGH.

[Published by request]
Boston Morning Journal.

To the Editor:—Mark Twain's greatest misfortune is that he feels compelled to sustain his reputation as a wit, a humorist, a very funny fellow. He must live, and to live he must make people laugh—for that is his profession. It is Mark Twain who writes, not Mr. Clemens.

Does any one suppose that the North American Review would have paid him for any serious article in reference to Christian Science—anything that would calmly, charitably, and dispassionately state the case and his opinion of it after a serious investigation of the facts? One need only to read, side by side, in the Boston Journal of the other day, extracts from the magazine article written by Mark Twain, and a criticism of the same by Mrs. Eddy; the one flippant, inconsequent, so-called wit; the other dignified, reverent, and patient, to form a very fair opinion concerning the spirituality of the two writers.

If Christian Science has never cured one single case of disease its teachings to do right, to love and trust God, and to love one's neighbor as one's self are sufficient to make a tremendous power for good among us—to exempt it from ill-mannered, snarling attacks, and to entitle it at least to tolerant welcome, if not to our active support.

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