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FOUNDED APRIL, 1883, by the Author of SCIENCE AND HEALTH,  
THE REV. MARY BAKER G. EDDY.

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## REVEREND MARY BAKER G. EDDY.

THE Rev. Mary Baker G. Eddy, discoverer and founder of Christian Science, was born in the town of Bow, New Hampshire. Her parents were Mark and Abigail B. Baker. Among her ancestors may be mentioned, Gen. John Macneil and Gen. Henry Knox. The family lineage goes back to Scotland, and among the more remote ancestry was Sir John Macneil, a Scottish knight who attained to much prominence in his day and generation as a statesman and diplomat.

Her great grandmother on the paternal side was Marion Moor, whose family were said to have belonged to the original stock from whom was descended Hannah More, "the pious and popular English authoress."

Among her relations of the present day who have attained to prominence in law and politics, are Hon. Hoke Smith, President Cleveland's Secretary of the Interior, and Gen. H. M. Baker, now a member of Congress.

Her brother Albert Baker, was a lawyer of unusual brilliancy and ability and at the early age of thirty years had won high distinction at the bar. He had been elected to Congress, but was prevented by death from taking his seat.

In her work *Retrospection and Introspection*, Mrs. Eddy thus refers to her parents:—

"My father possessed a strong intellect and an iron will. Of my mother I cannot speak as I would, for memory recalls qualities to which the pen can never do justice. The following is a brief extract from the eulogy of Rev. Richard S. Rust D. D., who for many years had resided in Tilton, and knew my sainted mother in all the walks of life."

The character of Mrs. Abigail Ambrose Baker was distinguished for numerous excellencies. She possessed a strong intellect, a sympathizing heart, and a placid spirit. Her presence, like the gentle dew and cheerful light, was felt by all around her. She gave an elevated character to

the tone of conversation in the circles in which she moved, and directed attention to themes at once pleasing and profitable.

As a mother, she was untiring in her efforts to secure the happiness of her family. She ever entertained a lively sense of the parental obligation, especially in regard to the education of her children. The oft-repeated impressions of that sainted spirit, on the hearts of those especially entrusted to her watch-care, can never be effaced, and can hardly fail to induce them to follow her to the brighter world. Her life was a living illustration of Christian faith.

The religious element was strongly marked in Mrs. Eddy's character from her earliest childhood. She early imbibed high conceptions of the office of divine Love. She was unable to reconcile the doctrine of eternal punishment with the Biblical teaching that God is Love, and that he is infinite. She could think of no place within the infinite where God's love was inefficacious, much less, a place where it could be transformed into eternal hate. These reflections, and her Scriptural studies, led her at the early age of twelve years to begin "disputing with the doctors" upon this and kindred subjects. She avowed her inability to accept the Calvinistic doctrine of election, or foreordination and predestination. But notwithstanding these reservations, she was admitted to membership in the Congregational church of her native place. She maintained her connection with this church until she organized her own Christian Science Church in Boston.

At the age of sixteen she had formed such literary habits that she became a valued contributor to the press and periodicals. Her literary tastes took the form of poetry as well as prose, although but few of her poems have been published.

But it is not as much of her early life and writings that we wish to speak, as of her "greater works" since she became imbued with that spirit of Truth which led her to the investigations and labors resulting in giving to the world that wonderful book *SCIENCE AND HEALTH, WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES*.

*SCIENCE AND HEALTH* is unique in literature. It is the first book to announce the fact that, as a system, "Christianity must be Science, and Science must be Christianity, else one or the other is false and useless." It is impossi-

ble, according to the system enunciated by this book, to be a true Christian without leading a truly Scientific life; and it is impossible to be a true Scientist without leading a truly Christian life.

The author draws the line sharply between pseudo-science and Science. That is, between those systems of human speculation and hypotheses which assume to be science, but which are lacking the element of stability and are ever-changing, and that unchanging Truth which is absolute and eternal in its method and operation. The former is of man; the latter is of God. And the more nearly the human mind lives in at-one-ment with the divine Mind, the more nearly it approaches to an understanding of the one absolute Science.

From this standpoint of God and man, therefore, the author very naturally and very wisely adopted as a name by which to designate the system thus revealed to her, the words, *Christian Science*. Nor did she intend that this name should be applied alone to designate a particular sect or class of people. It will be seen by the careful reader, that whatever partakes of eternal Truth (which she often refers to as Christ-Truth) is Christian Science, so far as it does so partake, and so far as it is demonstrated to be Truth.

The highest conception of Truth is Christ-knowledge, or knowledge of the Christ. This knowledge includes the teachings of the Bible as a whole. "Jesus the man was the fleshly embodiment or representative of the Christ-Truth upon this earth," and hence SCIENCE AND HEALTH refers to him as "the greatest Christian Scientist the world has ever known." Why? Because he had the greatest knowledge of God, and "reflected more of the divine character than any one else who appeared in the flesh." He was therefore more *Christianly Scientific* than any one else.

The name selected for this book is not less unique than the name its author has given to religion or Christianity. Science and Health! Science (knowledge) and Health (wholeness)! Knowledge of God is wholeness, and there is no wholeness apart from this knowledge, — this Science. Hence it is not used in the sense alone of mere physical

healing, conspicuous as that is in this system, and important as it is to humanity. It also is that "health" which includes universal harmony, spiritual wholeness, the full-grown man, the spiritual idea of God. This is the health to be attained through right-living and earnest Christian striving. To show mankind how to reach this goal upon its immortal Principle or purely spiritual basis is the grand purpose of SCIENCE AND HEALTH. It unfolds the Scriptures in such a way as to lead to clearer and better conceptions of God, and the universe including man. It opens to human vision a new view of life and its purposes, — of man and his capabilities and possibilities. It lifts the sorrowing and depressed out of the mortal "slough of despond" into which they have fallen as the result of wrong conditions and systems, and points them with unerring certainty to the consolations, hopes and aspirations of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Its results, as testified to by thousands who have been uplifted by its teachings, warrant the claim that it is that "Spirit of Truth" and that "Comforter" which Jesus said should come after him.

It is not a commentary of or upon the BIBLE. It is an interpretation of it in its entirety. It teaches no doctrine of man, but the law of God. It does not select fragmentary or isolated passages of Scripture and endeavor to conform them to preconceived opinions or hypotheses. It touches that mighty book at all sides, and brings its infinite meaning down to human comprehension. Those who have for years been studying it in connection with the BIBLE, are more and more deeply impressed with its far-reaching interpretation, and the marvelous manner in which it clears up otherwise obscure, perplexing, and often apparently contradictory statements. It is the uniform testimony of its oldest and most painstaking students that they have never yet found a statement of SCIENCE AND HEALTH which has not its basis in the BIBLE. This is not a hasty or biased conclusion, but is the result of close application and study by persons, many of whom had been conscientious and apt Bible scholars, according to the

old interpretations, for many years. It is not too much then, to claim for the authorship of this book the distinction of inspiration, as that term is properly used.

The intelligent reading of this book, according to their unsought testimony, has healed hundreds of persons of diseases and complications of diseases, which had baffled the best skill of all the schools of medicine, as well as all other known means ; and while healing them physically, it has uplifted them spiritually in such manner that they have come into this temple of the better understanding of divine law, literally "leaping and shouting and praising God." It has already passed to its seventy-fifth edition, and the demand for it exceeds present ability to meet it.

It has found its way into almost all parts of the world. Among other notable places where it has been received and read, is the Academy of Greece. The earnest Science worker through whose good offices it was presented to this Academy thus speaks of the manner of its introduction there :

"The conditions under which the book, **SCIENCE AND HEALTH**, was presented to the Academy of Greece were very suggestive. The Board of Philosophers were scattered all over the world trying to find the solution of the great question, 'What is life?' I told the director of the Musee that I had a book which gave the solution of this great problem, and I should take great pleasure in presenting their Library with a copy, and requested him to call the attention of their philosophers to it when they returned. He promised to do so. About six months after my return I received the certificate of its reception in their Library, and of its being given a place there. As this is the one educational institution of Greece, I think this book will be read, and will do its own work. I was pleased to hear from the book many months after, and it appears it was not overlooked."

The author has similar certificates from all the chief classical sources in Europe, America and Russia.

Mrs. Eddy refers to the motives by which she was governed in entering upon her great undertaking in the following tender tones :—

I saw before me the sick, wearing out years of servitude to an unreal master, in the belief that the body governed them, rather than Mind. The lame, the deaf, the dumb, the blind, the sick, the sensual, the sinner, I wished to save from the slavery of their own beliefs, and from the educational systems of the Pharaohs who to-day hold the children of Israel in bondage. I saw before me the awful conflict, the Red Sea, and the wilderness; but I pressed on, through faith in God, trusting Truth, the strong deliverer, to guide me into the land of Christian Science, where fetters fall, and the rights of man to freedom are fully known and acknowledged.

She again writes:—

When apparently near the confines of mortal existence, standing already within the shadow of the death-valley, I learned these truths in Divine Science: that all real Being is in the divine Mind and idea; that Life, Truth, and Love are all-powerful and ever-present; that the opposite of Truth — called error, sin, sickness, disease, death — is the false testimony of false material sense; that this false sense evolves, in belief, a subjective state of mortal mind, which this same mind calls matter, thereby shutting out the true sense of Spirit.

Speaking of her experiments along the line of homeopathic treatment of cases she writes: —

The drug was attenuated to such a degree that not a vestige of it remained; and from this fact I learned that it was not the drug which cured, or changed the symptoms. I have attenuated *Natrum muriaticum* (common table salt) until there was not a single saline property left. “The salt had lost its savor;” and yet with one drop of that attenuation in a goblet of water, and a teaspoonful of the water administered at intervals of three hours, I have cured a patient sinking in the last stage of typhoid fever.

As the result of such experiments she very naturally arrived at the conclusion that “the highest attenuation of homeopathy, and the most potent, steps out of matter into Mind; and thus it should seem that Mind is the healer, or metaphysics, and that there is no efficacy in the drug.”

By this teaching, the divine Principle of Jesus’ healing is rendered humanly practical, and a definite rule taught, upon which could be founded a system of healing for all. The great fact is found demonstrable, that “all causation is Mind, and that divine Mind is at once supreme and infinite Intelligence, and is the living Principle or omnipresent and omnipotent Life of the universe.” Also that “this all-pervading

Intelligence is absolute Good, containing no admixture or adulteration of evil, and knowing not evil, because Good is itself omnipotent and infinite, leaving no room for the presence of evil as a fact of the universe." It has only such reality or existence as depraved mortal conceptions have given it.

Mrs. Eddy's other writings consist of "Unity of Good," "Retrospection and Introspection," "No and Yes," "Rudiments and Rules of Divine Science," "Christian Healing," "People's idea of God," "Pond and Purpose," and many articles which have at different times been published in this JOURNAL.

These smaller works are, of course, based on SCIENCE AND HEALTH, but many of them are intended to, and do answer, in concise form, the questions which are most frequently asked concerning Christian Science, its aims, and underlying principles. As helps to the study of SCIENCE AND HEALTH, they are most valuable.

We have the pleasure, through the kindness and generosity of Mr. S. A. Bowers, a leading photographer of Concord, New Hampshire, of presenting to our readers as a frontispiece in this issue a very correct view of "Pleasant View," the country home of Mrs. Eddy. An interesting feature of this picture is the pond, the contributions for making which, brought forth from Mrs. Eddy's pen, that remarkable production, "Pond and Purpose."—EDITOR.

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#### NOTICE.

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WM. B. JOHNSON, Secretary Board of Directors.