

Christmas Sermon delivered at Horticultural Hall
Dec 26. 1880 by Mrs M. B. G. Eddy
Subject: The Nativity of Jesus.

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The prophet saith: "For unto us a child is born". (Is. 9:6.)

First we will consider what gave this declaration its especial significance. 2nd What was the star seen in the east that went before till it came and stood over where the young child lay.

Millions of children were born before the babe of Bethlehem, but they were not heralded by angels or tokens in the heavens. History furnishes the fact that the meek Nazarene was the most conspicuous character that ever trod the globe.

Untaught. Uneducated, he put to flight the arrogant Rabbis, overthrew the profoundest systems of philosophy ancient and modern; warrior, king and philosopher went down before him, and his teachings and demonstrations are destined to take Christianity back to its primitive definitions. But turn we from the material to the spiritual history of the babe, whose infant wailings "blew with the bleating of the goat and lowing of the kine"; briefly to examine that history before the sum of its gloom and glory. Well might Asaph sing, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace".

That Hebrew melodist discerned just cause
for clapping hands when a mighty Truth, welling
up from the Infinite, presented itself to mortal
soul, and that soul knew it and called it
a babe. And did not that wise seer forecast
the destiny of Truth when he said "the government
shall be upon its shoulders;" that it shall be found
a marvelous guide, an Omnipotent power, an im-
perishable Principle. But remember the Hebrew said
in his grand epic referred not to the little bundle
of flesh, phosphat and linen lying in a crib, but to
the advent of the spiritual idea that ~~it brought~~^{cognoscens},
even that Life is evolved of Spirit, and man be-
gotten of this Principle of all being. That a perfect
Mind evolves a perfect man and idea of God, and
that Mind never starts or results materially.
That Soul is not in body, for Deity never blends with
matter, and Spirit is untouched by evil passions and
mortality. Retaining his conscious spiritual existence
and entity, the mind of Jesus could move in its
native domain of mind. Hence the control that
he exercised over matter or material belief, ^{every} the
error called mortal man. The life of Jesus was
identical with Truth and Love, the Life that is God.
He demonstrated Spirit free from the fetters of
matter, Love unselfish and universal, the healing
power of Truth, and life immortal, soul the substance
^{as} _{is} the idon of soul. * 32870

He separated a material from a spiritual sense of things, established the reality and continuance of all things spiritual, and the nothingness of material things. To him matter was shadow, and spirit substance; the permanent and eternal side of things were the thoughts that formed them named them, announced ~~the idea~~, instead of material substance. Of a verity we must be born again to understand the Metaphysics of our Master, and born of the spirit, and not of flesh. — Great epochs begin with the birth of new ideas. — As our idea of God grows more impersonal, we shall love Truth only for Truth's sake, and this will imbue us with a more divine and less human affection and purpose, and this proper spiritual conception will give birth to a higher individuality, ^{The} babe in Christ born meekly because of its surrounding worldliness, sin and self.

When Columbus gave birth to his thoughts of a globe, when Thomas Jefferson uttered an impregnable truth principle, and when another individual declared the supremacy of Spirit, its power to heal the sick and destroy all error, the fortunes of the race gradually turned into a higher channel by the mild pressure of Truth. It is the great conception of meek and noiseless birth, and not the tumultuous effervescence, that change the existing state of things and gently face man onward.

The silent light, drawing artist's pictures, have

ing the cob, gilding the palace, gleaming thro' the lattice, glinting upon the church stonel, glancing into the dungeon, gliding into the sick room, brightening the flower, beautifying the landscape, blessing the world, is not egotistical, but the loud whirlwind, a sign and product of division and weakness, passes on and is forgotten! The most notable period of the ages was that when a Galilean peasant uttered by the wayside and in humble home, to atten listeners, to dull disciples, and to wondering ears, his simple sense of Truth, telling them it healed the sick, reformed the sinner, and despoiled the grave of its victory. He trusted his words to the providence of God, and in no fact seems the man of Galilee greater than in his serene sense of the immortality of what he uttered and demonstrated. Said he, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." What a calm confidence was that in the superior permanence of Mind over matter!

That most excellent man, Starr King, wrote, "if we study life aright we shall never center at abstractions as visionary or unreal, if they are false they are unsubstantial as the comusations in the northern sky, but if true they are permanent, impregnable as Principle, resistless as right."

In Mary's meek conception of the man that God produces, the Judean Shepherd saw the Immanuel,

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and the virgin mother saw her own son; but the vision of Mary rose above the maternal instinct giving place to prophecy when matutely she pondered his earthly fate. Conscious of the power of Truth, and the supremacy of Spirit over matter, and aware that her son was the idea and representative of the divine Science. Mary said to him at the marriage feast, "they have no wine", and he replied "woman (how significant that word) mine hour is not yet come." Modest of his spiritual understanding Jesus had not then full confidence in his power to illustrate the great fact of Spirit's supremacy, but his mother, having had proof of this in the immaculate conception, urged the exhibition of her son. She would have him demonstrate mind creative, causal, and able to present the form and character of a thought tangibly, to the senses, so she said unto the servants "whatever he saith unto you do it." Then Jesus turned the water into wine, but remember the senses alone saw the wine. soul never made wine, but it christened all things thoughts that can be changed through inspiration, not intoxication.

The guests at Galilee knew that mind, not matter made their wine, and they should have known that the object before their senses was only a thought presented to their thought that they called wine, for the master of Metaphysics

could only give to marriage the inspiration
of Soul, not sense. The Spiritual origin of
Jesus conferred upon him above all others the
(a clear understanding of the Omnipotence of
Mind) the nothingness of matter, and the un-
divided realm and reign of Spirit.

The Scriptures declare that the simple demon-
stration at the marriage manifested forth
his glory, and his disciples believed on him.

But would it be said of Christianity today,
predicated on such proof that it manifests
forth His glory? Ah! no, not until the divine
Principle and Science of this transforming power
is apprehended can it present the proof of di-
vine power. The same Principle which turned
the belief of water into a belief of wine, re-
veals the great Metaphysical fact that all
is Mind, and matter is one of its beliefs,
constantly changing, and passing away until
there is "no more sea" as in the vision of the
Revelator. The same divine Principle changed
the rushing current of blood to a milder flow
when he laid to the neck of Levi his rod walk;
and the same Principle that destroys sickness
destroys all error, sin and death. Jesus
atoned for sickness and death as much as for
sin, for the Truth he demonstrated overcomes
them all, and his suffering arose from the
world's hatred of that Truth.

The all-engrossing care of man's bodies, the all-absorbing selfishness and sensualism entrenched within each form of society betray the greatest ignorance of what constitutes happiness, and the actuality of being. The erring thought called mortal mind has little faith in the might of Immortal Mind, unerring Intelligence; wrong has no faith in right because it can never be right, so we should weary of that self which never fulfills the destiny of man; and should love with the whole affections the moral power that values life only for its uses and spurns the abuse of being. Remember it was the holy aim, and pure thoughts that made things perfect, which laid the foundations in the mind of his mother that outlined the character of Jesus.

The motives and results of such a mind are crowned by birthright, they bless involuntarily, individually and universally, they have not the power to harm, but to help mankind. Animated by a spiritual and divine sense of being and its high behest, Jesus overcame the world. The purity of his origin reproduced itself in the aims, the achievements, and affections of the man; in him Divine Science had a fit representative, and philosophy had to admit that the power of man is immortal mind, not matter, and that animal force, serpentine art, avaracity, misguided can never contribute to success in Science.

They are a shame to man, they belie his words,
scuttle his deeds, and betray their origin.

Law can never render the animal propensities
fit progenitors of the human or the Divine.

A man begotten of Spirit reflects God, and the
higher qualities, instincts and possibilities of Mind
are born of Spirit and not of the flesh.

In the original texts the word son implied
a variety of decesses the child a year old was
named the son of a year, etc. In the Hebrew
sense parentage human or Divine was not deter-
mined by the word son. Jesus was a man and
God was his Father in the same sense that he is
ours, and the Principle of real being.

The great difference between the Nazarene
and a Nero obtained in their mothers; the
bloody emperor's type of sin and sensualism
and the weak Master's type of purity and
Truth were transmitted by their parents. It
was the parents of Nero who constituted him,
and out of their own qualities of thought, which
presented a monster rather than a man, the
one earthly parent of Jesus, (for he had but one),
engraved upon her son the impress of her thoughts
allied to God the father of all goodness and
blessedness. From the parable of the husbandmen
we learn how the age receives a new idea, say-
ing "this is the heir, come let us kill him, and
the inheritance shall be ours."

Some individuals in all ages have tried to stop the advancing footsteps they are unwilling to follow, they would hold perpetual guard at the threshold of history to keep back the angel visitant not having on an old-time garment. And to state their moral power they would even rob the character of these former who bear the glad tidings which shall be to all peoples shall uproot all class, dynasties, civil and religious despoticisms. If the spiritual tendency of the Metaphysics of Jesus is found repelling materialism and personal gods (as it certainly is,) it must have enemies that will deny its divinity, and assail its exponent.

The highest moralists on the globe cannot escape this. But they do it only to silence the glorious influence and stop the march of a new idea.

The thunders of ~~signs~~^{shall decide} never uttered their voices that a medical censor what are the exact rights of a man to benefit his race. Must it be said that in these United States, where the statue of Lincoln layeth its hand in benediction on the oppressed, that laws have been enacted in a majority of the states prohibiting any other healing practice than *Materia Medica*? But civil or religious despoticism can never annul the divine decree. "And these signs shall follow them that believe, they shall lay their hands on the sick and they shall recover."

Human law can not forever trample on the rights of man. God hath said it and it comes along the corridors of time) that Truth shall at length the earth from the curse of error; and that materia medica is not Truth we know from experience. Dr. James Johnson of London surgeon extraordinary to the King says if there was not a single physician, surgeon, apothecary, man-midwife, chemist or druggist, there would be less sickness and less mortality. Sir John Forbes F.R.C. London says - no therapeutic agents ever yet promulgated, is true or can be adopted as a safe guide in practice. Dr. Benj. Waterhouse, professor in Harvard University says, "I am sick of learned quackery."

Dr. Oliver W. Holmes says, "If the whole Materia Medica could be sunk to the bottom of the sea it would be all the better for mankind, and worse for the fishes."

Human law, that we have seen capable of almost every injustice may for a short period longer hedge about and support the speculative myth called "Materia Medica," that originated with Pagan priests and heathen deities, but the four thousand years of history of medicine is drawing to a close and when it is finally buried in Oblivion mankind will be emancipated from one of the most abject slaveries that ever infested the globe.

The legislative acts of some of the states appointing censors who require one man to give medicines, and another to take it, pinning a man

Then when you pray "thy kingdom come," remember that kingdom is spirit and not matter.

And lo! the star which they saw in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. That star prefigured Divine Science, and only the watching, willing, working Christian beholds it, and it guides him to the Cradle of a new life, where unto him a child is born, a new idea hath birth, he beholds it, he understands it and loves it. But Science must traverse the night of the age, wade through gloom until the child is born, and the glad tidings of great joy proclaimed to all, until the Truth has dawned upon us that Spirit is the only Life, Substance and Intelligence of man; and just as it came to the waiting wise men of old, it comes to the waiting heart today a Prince of peace, healing the sick, casting out error, having the dead, lifting our sense of life from matter to Spirit. And of the increase of his government there shall be no end.

But this babe of Christian science the age layeth again in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes, nursed in obscurity, for the Herods of today decree its death. But fear ye not little flock, this son of God, this offspring of Principle abideth forever.

Let the Shepherds shout again the child is born! and they have called his name wonderful; and let the future ^{see} with Isaih, "Remember thee, O Zion, with healing on thy wings, thy walls were salvation, and thy gates praise!"