

beginning to end. Study it, ponder it. It will be indeed sweet at its first taste, when it heals you, but murmur not over truth, if you find its digestion bitter."

She is much more guarded in insinuating her claim to be the Woman clothed with the Sun, veiling her utterances in the darkest kind of Orphic jargon. We are told that—

"In the opening of the Sixth Seal, typical of the six thousand years since Adam, there is one distinctive feature which has special reference to the present age," namely: "There appeared a great wonder in heaven—a Woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars."

The "key" to this is that—

"Heaven represents harmony, and Divine Science interprets the principle of heavenly harmony. . . . Because of his more spiritual vision, St. John saw an angel in the sun; he saw the spiritual ideal as a woman clothed in light, a bride coming down from heaven wedded to the Lamb of Love. The Bride and the Lamb represented the correlation of divine principle and spiritual idea, bringing harmony to earth. . . . As Elias represents the fatherhood of God, through Jesus, so the Revelator completes this figure with woman, as the spiritual idea or type of God's Motherhood;"

and so on beyond further endurance.

Mrs. Eddy deprecates "criticisms of her book that are based on detached sentences or clauses separated from the context;" but, in sibylline books, among which, in the sense of being oracular and fragmentary, "Science and Health" must undoubtedly rank, there is no context at all to speak of; detached sentences and clauses for the most part make up the book. The author has much more to fear from the criticism of a system which has turned an alleged divine revelation into a source of pecuniary profit. Mrs. Eddy informs us in her autobiography that,

"When God (the God of Christian Science) impelled me to set a price on my instructions in Christian Science mind reading, I could think of no financial equivalent for an impartation of a knowledge of that divine power which heals; but I was led to name \$300 as the price for each pupil in one course of lessons at my college. I shrank from asking it, but was finally led by a strange providence to accept this fee. God has since shown me, in multitudinous ways, the wisdom of this decision."

And her heirs will no doubt confirm it. The Massachusetts Metaphysical College was chartered in 1881, and closed abruptly in 1889. Some 4,000 students took the course, and if only half that number paid the fees, the value of Mrs. Eddy's "discovery" may be easily estimated. We are told that, "To meet the broader wants of humanity," the *Journal of Christian Science* was started in 1883; it is issued monthly, and costs \$2.00 a year, paid in advance. As the official organ of Christian Science, it contains the advertising cards of graduated students and their pupils, many of whom have set up schools or institutes of their own for teaching the "pathology of spiritual power," as some of them put it. In a recent issue of the *Journal* I counted some seven hundred cards; the fee for a