

# NEW YORK EDDYITES TAKE DEATH CALMLY

## Announcement of Founder's End in Local Churches Not Shock to Membership.

### BUT ONE WOMAN FAINTS

#### Passages from a Letter Read to Show Mrs. Eddy Contemplated Absence from the Earthly Scene.

Leaders of the Christian Science Church in this city announced yesterday upon learning of Mrs. Eddy's death that there could be no successor to her as "pastor emeritus" of the Mother Church and recognized leader of the cult. They said that neither Mrs. Stetson nor any other Christian Scientist could expect to succeed Mrs. Eddy, because the only real title ever officially ascribed to Mrs. Eddy was "discoverer and founder" of Christian Science.

Just what disposition will be made of the power exerted by Mrs. Eddy will not be known until her will is read, but those who stand high in the councils of the church say it is quite likely that the document transfers whatever powers she exercised in church management to the Board of Directors of the Mother Church in Boston. They also say that Mrs. Eddy's will doubtless, provides that the money from royalties on her books shall from now on go to the church itself.

The first official news here that Mrs. Eddy was dead was received at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon by Eugene R. Cox, Chairman of the Christian Science Publication Committee for New York State. At that hour Mr. Cox received a long-distance telephone call from John V. Dittmore, a Director of the Mother Church and clerk to the board.

"Mrs. Eddy passed away at 11 o'clock last night," said Mr. Dittmore. He then explained that the announcement had been made to the congregation of the Mother Church yesterday morning, and requested that all of the congregations here be notified at the evening service.

Mr. Cox hastened to inform the First Readers of each of the Christian Science Churches and societies in New York. In pursuance of a request from the Mother Church each of the First Readers was instructed to read to their congregations two paragraphs from a letter written by Mrs. Eddy in 1891 to the college association of the Massachusetts Metaphysical College at the time she retired from active participation in the church's affairs.

Last night accordingly in each of the Christian Science churches these paragraphs were read, following a brief announcement that Mrs. Eddy was dead. The first paragraph was as follows:

My beloved students: You may be looking to see me in my accustomed place with you, but this you may no longer expect. When I retired from the field of labor it was a departure socially, publicly, and finally from the routine of such material modes as society and our own societies demand. Rumors are rumors—nothing more. I am still with you on the field of battle, taking forward marches, broader and higher views, and with the hope that you will follow.

The second paragraph from the letter was:

All our thoughts should be given to the absolute demonstration of Christian Science. You can well afford to give me up, since you have, in my last revised edition of "Science and Health," your teacher and guide.

It was explained that while this letter from Mrs. Eddy was written several years ago, it might be taken as her last word on the subject.

The announcements of Mrs. Eddy's death came at the close of each of the Christian Science services here last night. In the First Church of Christ one woman fainted and was assisted from the church. But in the other congregations the news was received without demonstration of any kind.

It was through the reporters that Mrs. Stetson first learned of Mrs. Eddy's death. Mrs. Stetson and her closest friend and follower, Mrs. Kate Y. Remer, were in the Stetson home, next door to First Church at Ninety-sixth Street and Central Park West, when the reporters called.

Mrs. Remer met the visitors and conveyed the news to Mrs. Stetson. A little later Mrs. Remer returned and said that Mrs. Stetson would have nothing to say "at this momentous time."

Chairman Cox announced early in the afternoon that there would be no statement from the Publication Committee here other than a brief announcement of the death. But later he issued the following:

"Mrs. Eddy's whole teaching has been that of individual responsibility—the responsibility of deeds more than words; the responsibility of right thinking, which means righteousness; the responsibility of doing right; and the fact that to do this we must have that mind in us which was also in Jesus Christ."

"In proportion as Christian Scientists assume these responsibilities now they honor Mrs. Eddy. All her writings have directed us to follow principle, not personality, and as this is done the cause so wonderfully established by Mrs. Eddy will continue to grow until it draws all manner of men unto it."

More informally, but with permission to publish, Mr. Cox discussed the effect that Mrs. Eddy's death will have on the future of the Christian Science Church throughout the country.

"Mrs. Eddy," he said, "never preached that there is no material death, although she has predicted the ultimate conquest of death in times to come, and there need be no difficulty in the minds of Christian Scientists in reconciling the physical fact of her death with their disbelief in death itself."

"In her book, 'The Unity of Good,' Mrs. Eddy has written: 'This generation seems too material for any strong demonstration over death, and hence cannot bring out the infinite reality of life—namely, there is no death.'

"The Church of Christ, Scientist, in this city and elsewhere will run on smoothly on its own momentum. Mrs. Eddy gave it such an impulse and placed it on such an enduring basis, that it can adequately guide itself."

"There can be no question of who is to succeed Mrs. Eddy. She can have no successor. Christian Scientists the world over universally regarded her as the Discoverer and Founder of the religion she taught, and there cannot be two founders of a religion."

"Since June 3, 1901, when the letter read to-day by Judge Smith in the Mother Church was first read to a Christian Scientist congregation, Mrs. Eddy has occupied the position of pastor emeritus of the mother church, a position which draws no salary."

Mr. Cox said that practically all Christian Scientists realized long ago that Mrs. Eddy was a very old woman, and that her end could be looked for at almost any time. He added that the news of her death was not therefore a shock to them.

As for the funeral arrangements, nothing definite had been learned here by Christian Science officials late last night. Leaders in the several churches said they did not know whether they would attend the funeral or not. It will depend upon word from the Mother Church Directors.

Mourning for the dead is not a part of the Christian Science creed. Grief or black attire is seldom if ever worn as a mark of mourning. Nor is it likely that any of the churches here will hold memorial services for Mrs. Eddy.

Those who are deeply interested in the question of what is to become of the power once exerted by Mrs. Eddy in Christian Science affairs pointed yesterday to several provisions in the Christian Science Manual which called for action by the "pastor emeritus" just made vacant by Mrs. Eddy. One of these provisions is that the Christian Science Board of Directors consists of five men, and that they fill a vacancy occurring on the board only after the candidate is approved by the "pastor emeritus." Another is that no new tenet or by-law shall be adopted nor any tenet or by-law

amended or annulled without written consent of Mary Baker G. Eddy.

It is generally believed, however, in Christian Science circles here that Mrs. Eddy's will provides for the transferring of this power. The Mother Church Manual will probably be changed in accordance with the written wish of the dead leader.

Although Mrs. Eddy had not visited this city since 1888, pilgrimages to her home have been made by many of the Christian Science teachers and practitioners here in recent years. One of the last New Yorkers to see the aged leader alive was Richard Verrall, librarian of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, and a practitioner in that congregation. Mr. Verrall told yesterday of his last visit to Newton.

"I was there in October," he said, "and had a glimpse of Mrs. Eddy as she was returning from a drive around the reservoir. Accompanied by a friend, I had gone to Mrs. Eddy's home in the hope of seeing our beloved leader. Just as Mrs. Eddy's carriage turned into the grounds Mrs. Eddy saw us, and indicated it by a motion of her hand. At that time she looked much as she had looked three years before."

Mr. Verrall was notified of Mrs. Eddy's death by Chairman Cox.

Another leading Christian Scientist here who has an intimate knowledge of the Eddy household is John Lathrop, son of Mrs. Laura Lathrop, leader of the Second Church of Christ, Scientist. Mr. Lathrop when informed of Mrs. Eddy's death yesterday said that he was loath to believe it. He said that Mrs. Eddy had been reported dead so many times that Christian Scientists had ceased to put faith in such announcements.

Virgil O. Strickler, First Reader of First Church, was also loath to believe the report yesterday afternoon. He called up Mr. Dittmore on the long-distance telephone and asked if Mrs. Eddy had really passed away. When assured that such was the case Mr. Strickler said that he was unable to make any statement. He said that a great many Christian Scientists considered it questionable taste to comment upon those who had passed away.

Those who remember Mrs. Eddy's last appearance here say that she lectured to a large audience of Christian Scientists. The movement was just beginning to take root in New York. It was not long after Mrs. Eddy lectured here that the First Church was organized. The congregation used to meet over Caswell & Massey's drugstore at Fifth Avenue and Forty-seventh Street. Mrs. Stetson and Mrs. Laura Lathrop were largely instrumental in organizing the First Church.

Both were students of Mrs. Eddy and had spent much time with her. But not long after First Church became firmly established here Mrs. Stetson and Mrs. Lathrop disagreed, and Mrs. Lathrop organized the Second Church of Christ, Scientist, of which she was for many years the official head. Both Mrs. Lathrop and her son, John, have at various times been inmates of the Eddy household. Mrs. Lathrop was out of town yesterday.

## DEFENDS CABLE RATE PLAN.

### Commercial Officer Says Its Proposal Was to Meet International Difficulties.

Commenting on the special cable dispatch from London, published in THE TIMES of Nov. 27, George Clapperton, Vice President of the Commercial Cable Company, said:

"I see it is stated that the committee appointed by the British Post Office to consider reduced rates for plain language cable messages included the Western Union manager. It omitted to state that the Commercial Cable Company's manager was a member of the committee."

"The dispatch credits a prominent member of the conference with the statement that the Commercial Cable Company offers its own plan of reducing cable rates in plain language by counting the letters, but that this is a safe offer because the European Governments would never consent to it. I, of course, do not know who is referred to as the prominent member, but suppose it is the Western Union manager."

"So far neither the Government plan nor the Commercial Cable Company's plan has been adopted, and, according to the dispatch, international difficulties have appeared in the way of the Government plan. This is no more than the Commercial Cable Company expected, and the object of the Commercial Cable Company's separate plan was to avoid the difficulties which it felt sure would attend any attempt to reduce rates while retaining the word rate of counting."

"The five-letter plan aims to avoid these difficulties, and at the same time to do for the sender of plain-language cablegrams what the code cablegram has done for the sender of code cablegrams. It will enable the sender of plain language to select the easiest words to express his meaning. As The New York Globe has said: 'Among other useful results the new code (plan) will tend to promote the use of short words. Under it a very respectable cablegram of eighty letters will be possible for \$2.'

"So far no good reason has been advanced why it should not be adopted."

## WANTS HOLY DAYS OBSERVED

### Catholic Priest Urges Parents to Keep Their Children from School on Them.

Father D. F. Green, assistant pastor of the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, in West 118th Street, while making his announcements after mass yesterday morning warned the congregation against allowing their children to break the Roman Catholic Church law, by attending public school next Thursday, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The pastor told his parishioners that a State law, which many of the public school Principals were unfamiliar with, made it sufficient for all Roman Catholic public school pupils merely to report to their Principals next Thursday morning. Under the State law, Father Green said, they would then be marked "present" and excused for the day.

After the service Father Green told reporters that Roman Catholic officials in this city have for several months felt very strongly on the subject of Roman Catholic public school children being forced to neglect their Holy Day duties. On the Feast of All Saints, last November, Father Green said, a Brooklyn High School Principal refused, through ignorance of the law, to allow a Roman Catholic child to be excused to attend his religious duties. Father Green said that he understood that Archbishop Farley felt very deeply on the subject of the neglect of Holy Day observance by Roman Catholic public school pupils, and that the Archbishop intended to bring the question up before the Diocesan Synod when it meets at St. Patrick's Cathedral to-morrow.