

Hyde Park, Mass., July 27, 1907.

Reverend Mary Baker Eddy,
Pleasant View,
Concord, N. H.

Dear Madam:-

I am pleased to write (by request) a few lines to you in explanation of the history back of the thought, or idea, which I aimed to express in the painting of the Christian Science Mother Church.

Pictures are difficult to name, if the composition expresses something beyond the objective. I have named the picture "The Dawn," or The Dawn of a new phase of religious expression,--based on life, truth and love. That thought or sentiment was more or less in my mind while painting the picture.

Several years ago, when abroad, I became much interested in the great possibilities of pictorial representation of the grand architectural features met with in the principal cities of Europe, especially noted churches like St. Peter's, Rome; Maria della Saluta, Venice; and St. Paul's, London. I mention these three because I secured good sketches in color of them and hope some day to paint pictures of them, provided I can get inspired with an idea,--how to treat those grand subjects.

In Europe as well as in this country no great architectural achievement exists but which is surrounded by all sorts

of clashing and obstructing forms, lines, etc., which the artist has to eliminate or partly surpress in order to represent his impression of the whole, selecting, of course, the most characteristic and beautiful conception.

On my return to this country I continued, off and on, making sketches of Boston's great architectural piles, among the most important of which the Christian Science Church interested me the most,--not alone on account of its architectural beauty, but also on account of its history. In making sketches of it I found great difficulty in grasping the whole, as to the most characteristic and representative sides of both churches, also as to form and line, placing on canvas, etc., the pictorial expression of which could only be successfully controlling the whole by the idea already mentioned,-- the "Dawn" idea, expressed symbolically.

Now as to the picture,-- all new ideas have to pass through a storm of adverse criticism and often war to the knife. I represent the Christian Science Church rising unharmed out of the smoke of contending factions, the struggle of creeds and all sorts of isms for supremacy. The upper part of the picture is represented in a glow of light, bathing part of the retreating storm clouds in a roseate morning light, and in a still warmer glow the towers and upper part of the Church, the whole mass of light prophesying fair future conditions, as also does the reflected light on the body of the churches in shadow, from the clearing sky outside of the

picture. The smoke of contending factions in the lower part of the picture allowed me to suppress disturbing detail, like doors, pavements, etc., so the eye can take in the whole picture easily.

Hoping the picture will please you, I am

Yours, with great respect,

John J. Emmet

Her Mother Church

Artists

Letter

Calendar

Faint vertical text, possibly bleed-through or a separate column of notes.