

Acheson 4-16-46

Minneapolis 7, Minnesota,
April 4, 1946.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist,
107 Falmouth Street,
Boston, Massachusetts,
Miss Mary G. Ewing, Clerk.

RECEIVED
THE FIRST CHURCH OF
CHRIST SCIENTIST
APR 9 - 1946
CLERK'S OFFICE

Dear Miss Ewing:

I am very happy to answer your letter of March 15th and give whatever information I can relating to Mr. Morton's interview with Mrs. Eddy.

My husband loved to tell the story in this manner:
" I was very proud of my education for did I not have a very fine position as a correspondent on the Associated Press, and having been a waterfront reporter on the San Francisco Chronicle! I felt I was a man worth knowing. When Calvin Frye ushered me into the room where Mrs. Eddy was sitting some of my arrogance left me. I wondered how I could report anything derogatory about some one who manifested so much intelligence. That she had vision I soon learned when the first question that popped into my mind was, Mrs. Eddy what, in your cult, is your definition of a Christian Science treatment? She looked at me long with her searching eyes and said, 'My boy, a treatment in Christian Science is an absolute acknowledgment of the ever presence of Infinite Perfection.' When she called me 'my boy' some more of the old arrogance left me and I had nothing more to ask. I made a note of this definition but it was not considered a news item. It certainly was no scoop for the A.P!

3-13-46
O.S.B.D. wrote
Rev. Arthur H. Swett
not to use this in
an article he
was writing for
the periodicals
C.S.L.

I had become paralysed on one side as the result of wounds received in war and was taken to the Veterans's hospital. One night when I was suffering greatly and knew that the doctors were going to operate the next day I asked myself this question: What was it that Mrs. Eddy said to me with regard to a Christian Science treatment? In pondering the words of Mrs. Eddy's definition of a Christian Science treatment I reached this conclusion: If that be true then there is nothing to heal. If all is perfection then I cannot be paralysed. In thinking about this clearly and deeply I arose from my bed and was healed. An orderly thought my mind had snapped and tried to put me back to bed but I assured him that I was healed and free. Later I became an earned student of Christian Science and have been blessed abundantly."

This interview with Mrs. Eddy occurred a few months after his graduation from college in June 1897 and before he enlisted on June 11, 1898 in San Francisco to serve in the Spanish American war and the Philippine Insurrection. I am sorry that I cannot give the exact date because I never questioned my husband on this particular point, anticipating no need for it.

The following excerpt from my letter to Mr. Swett may be of interest for additional detail: "It is possible that this definition was widely circulated for my husband travelled much and had the privilege of having several teachers and lecturers as his dearest friends with whom he had many intimate talks. One of his most cherished friend was a teacher and lecturer of the early days.

Since Mrs. Eddy was often interviewed by reporters and writers it would seem that she would have given the same definition to others who might have inquired for such a definition. While my husband treasured this definition of a Christian Science treatment from the lips of our Leader very highly, he laid no claim to any exclusiveness in this matter.

My husband and I have always felt that throughout her writings Mrs. Eddy had stressed the fact that true healing is accomplished by the recognition of God's allness and by the understanding of the One Mind. This is one reason why we did not sent this definition for the historical files since it differs not in meaning from her other writings but merely in words."

I will be very grateful if you can use this information for the historical files.

Sincerely yours,

Elise Marie Mocton