

**THE ALETHEIA: SPIRIT OF TRUTH. A
SERIES OF LETTERS IN WHICH THE
PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED
SOCIETY KNOWN AS SHAKERS
ARE SET FORTH AND ILLUSTRATED**

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AURELIA G. MACE

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AURELIA G. MACE. *Born March 6.*—
"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help." 1936.

THE ALETHEIA:

SPIRIT OF TRUTH.

A SERIES OF LETTERS IN WHICH THE PRINCIPLES
OF THE UNITED SOCIETY KNOWN AS SHAKERS
ARE SET FORTH AND ILLUSTRATED.

By AURELIA G. MACE.

*God is our Infinite Mother; She will hold us in her
arms of blessedness and beauty forever and ever.*

THEODORE PARKER.

SECOND EDITION.

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TO
"MY TEN," GEMS OF PRICELESS WORTH,
I AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATE THIS
BOOK.

AURELIA.

INTRODUCTION.

WITH the object in view that the Shakers may become better known, this book is offered to the public.

The first part comprises a series of letters that were published in *The Messenger*, a Bangor (Maine) paper, during the years 1883 and 1884. Then are inserted communications and short articles that have been published from time to time in the *Shaker Manifesto*.

It is presumed that by reading this book one can obtain a clear and correct idea of the Shakers' belief and manner of life, and of the rise and progress of the Societies.

We have been with you more than one hundred years, and still are not understood.

The mission of the Shaker is to live the pure life which Jesus lived and taught. Its meaning is to subdue and triumph over the animal nature in man, and to develop the spiritual nature. This is done by self-denial. The self-denial that the Prophet Daniel lived out, which made him the perfect man, greatly beloved, beautiful in form and feature, who could stand before the kings of the earth and confound them, and reveal what was hidden in the past and in the future.

As a Society, we, at Sabbathday Lake, have for many years been struggling for an existence, believing that we have something good and pure and beautiful to give unto the world when

the world is able to receive it. "All cannot receive the saying. He that can receive it, let him receive it," said Jesus. The line is drawn and the life clearly defined. A man is a Shaker, or he is not. If he falls from the high standard, even in spirit, he ceases to be a Shaker until restored by the forgiving love of God.

In the service of the Society I have been at the Poland Spring House many times during the past twenty years, and have received great kindness and consideration from the people I have met within its walls. I have taken note of the grand and beautiful life fortune bestows upon her favored ones. I have had intercourse with the cultured, the refined and learned, and have great respect for the noble class of people I meet here from year to year. It has been with great joy that I have received many favors in behalf of my people, for which I am ever mindful and grateful.

Special thanks are due to the proprietors of the Poland Springs, also to Mrs. George Gregg, of Boston, Mass., and Mrs. J. Otis Swift, of Lewiston, Maine, for encouragement and assistance.

With a sincere desire that some good and no harm may be the result, this work is respectfully submitted.

A.

March, 1899.