



(Our New Suburban Office.)



*Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 21, 1904.*

Mrs. E. G. White,

Sanitarium, Calif.

Dear Mother:-

I have received some communications from you recently which I would have been glad to have answered more fully than I have done. I will not go into a statement of reasons for this, but I have had my hands and heart full and with a head that has not been good for much. I am thankful that I am now feeling much better, and I think the affairs of the work are straightening out and improving considerably.

Your recent letter in which you stated that you were looking for a letter from me for the Lord had told you that the cloud was lifting, found a very tender spot in my heart. We have been rejoicing here for some time over the statement from the Lord that the cloud in this field is lifting. This means much to us who have been a long time in this field, and I want to say that we see many improvements in different ways in connection with the work. There is an entirely different feeling through the field in the South toward the work of the Southern Missionary Society, and toward the Publishing House. The fault-finding and complaining seem to have disappeared and they are willing to accept the work of these institutions and have confidence

Mrs. E. G. White-2-

in them as ordained of God and doing an important work. This of course is a great comfort.

Our recent Conference was one of great importance and it was not accompanied by the criticising and fault-finding spirit which has attended these meetings in the past. There was more harmony than I have ever seen in a meeting here in the South.

Brother Haskell's coming has been a great thing for the work here, and the uniting of Elders Butler and Haskell has given great confidence in the South whatever the result may be in the North.

There is a different feeling by our General Conference men and by the Review & Herald as a paper toward this work than there has ever been before, and we look for good results in consequence.

Our Southern Missionary Society has been appealing to our people for help and some responses have been made. There has been enough response to carry us over a very difficult period in the work and to make us feel quite certain that we shall have means enough to carry on the work now in hand, although the remittances are small, and not large in each mail. We cannot see our way clear yet to undertake any new line of work for I had rather do what we can and do it well without strain and difficulty than to carry on a larger work and be constantly in trouble.

Now, Mother, taking all these things together in connection with the improvement in my health and I do feel for us here, at least, the cloud is lifting, and I am glad that I realize in this a response to the statement that the Lord has sent in regard to the lifting of the cloud, and we look for this improvement to continue and increase.

I have come to the conclusion that there is only one thing that can be done for the Southern Missionary Society and that is to keep

Mrs. E. G. White-3-

everlastingly at it, to have something going to our people all the time which will call their attention to some feature of the work, and this we are planning to do. There is one feature I did not mention and that is the readiness with which the people have received those little contribution boxes recommended by you. I sent you some of them but you have not mentioned them in your letter. I would like to have you state how you like them. I will say that nearly two thousand have already been sent out and already returns are beginning to come which indicate that we may rely on quite an income from them.

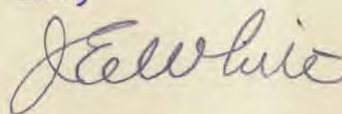
Now, Mother, I have just read your recent letter to W. C. in which you beg for the privilege of remaining at home this summer and not being taken into the very storm element of our people. I was astonished when I read your letter for I had been lead to suppose that your coming to Washington was of your own choosing on account of light you had received. As I learned from your letter that this is not the case I have written quite positively to W. C. and enclose copy of my letter to him which I shall be glad to have you read. I feel, Mother, that unless the Lord has directly spoken to you that you should not by any means be persuaded to leave your pleasant and comfortable home and go where you know you will be placed under a load which I am fearful will crush you. While my inclinations would favor your coming near where I can meet you from time to time yet I do not allow this to have any weight with me in a matter of this kind. When our leading brethren take the position that they did last October in attempting to coerce your opinions and control your actions I feel that as far as you can be from their personal influence the better it is. There are strong minded men there at Washington, men who have decided opinions of their own, and what they want more than all will be expressions of

Mrs. E. G. White-4-

sanction from you for efforts they are making and enterprises they are undertaking, and I feel it to be unfair to present these many matters to you for your consideration and decision, and you know how it will be should you go to that place. If the Lord directs I have nothing farther to say but I do not think that any urging from your brethren should lead you to do in this case what your judgment cannot sustain, unless the Lord speaks direct. I do not want to be out of my place in this matter of counsel but I believe that my opinion should have weight as well as that of my brother or any one else of the denomination in matters of this kind. In the past my brother has felt quite impatient toward me because I have in my distress opened up the situation of the work here before you, but as stated in my letter to him, what I have done in this line is not one-hundredth part of what will be done in a similar line should you go to Washington. The world needs your books, and if these men will seek the Lord for themselves and live out the instruction they have already received I believe they can get along with the business matters of Washington. I don't want to see you jeopardize your life in any such way unless the Lord especially calls for it and then I know He will sustain.

But I will not write more at this time. Hoping that the Lord will direct and sustain you, I remain as ever,

Yours son,



JEW-R