

*Change in 1911 E.B.*

October 9, 1940

Granger  
Washington C/o River Bend Ranch

Dear Brother

Your letter of September 7, addressed to the Pacific Press Publishing Co., has been forwarded to us from their office in Mountain View, California. It has been many years since they were in Oakland.

You ask regarding the omission of a phrase on page 383 of "Great Controversy," in the edition of 1911. About that time the plates of the book were so worn that it became necessary to reset the entire book. Regarding this, Mrs. White herself wrote:

"When I learned that 'Great Controversy' must be reset, I determined that we would have everything closely examined, to see if the truths it contained were stated in the very best manner to convince those not of our faith that the Lord had guided and sustained me in the writing of its pages.

"As a result of the thorough examination by our most experienced workers, some changing in the wording has been proposed. These changes I have carefully examined and approved. I am thankful that my life has been spared, and that I have strength and clearness of mind for this and other literary work."--E. G. White Letter 56, 1911.

You will note from this that Mrs. White herself "carefully examined and approved" the changes that were made. I was acting as one of her secretaries at the time, and well remember the careful and thorough work that was done in reading and checking the language of the book. Not many changes were found necessary, but in a few cases changes were made in order that the truths might be "stated in the very best manner."

I think I can tell you why the phrase "in a message which is yet future," was omitted in the 1911 edition of "Great Controversy." The book was written more than a quarter of a century before the revision was made. It is quite possible that during the time when the message of Rev. 18 is being given, the book will still be read, and it would be misleading to one who might be reading it at that time to be told that this message was still in the future. In other words, this book is to be read for all time, as long as probation lasts, and there will come a time when that message which was future when Mrs. White wrote the book, will no longer be future, but a present issue.

The omission of this phrase in no wise alters the teaching of the book, but was a prudent action taken with Mrs. White's full knowledge and approval in view of the time when this phrase might no longer be true.

Trusting that this may throw light upon your perplexity, I am

Yours very sincerely,

DER/c