

December 18, 1953

308 West Ellsworth Street  
Columbia City, Indiana

Dear Sister

You have written asking us concerning a statement from Sister White's pen relating to those who eat meat and translation. I would refer you to the book Counsels on Diet and Foods, where on pages 380-382 you will find these statements:

"Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view, and endeavor to work steadily toward it. I cannot think that in the practice of flesh eating we are in harmony with the light which God has been pleased to give us....

"Those who have received instruction regarding the evils of the use of flesh foods, tea, and coffee, and rich and unhealthful preparations, and who are determined to make a covenant with God by sacrifice, will not continue to indulge their appetite for food that they know to be unhealthful. God demands that the appetite be cleansed, and that self-denial be practiced in regard to those things which are not good. This is a work that will have to be done before His people can stand before Him a perfected people....

"There are those who ought to be awake to the danger of meat eating, who are still eating the flesh of animals, thus endangering the physical, mental, and spiritual health. Many who are now only half converted on the question of meat eating will go from God's people to walk no more with them."

You will enjoy reading the entire group of statements as they relate to the eating of flesh and preparation for translation. As I see it, what Sister White presents to us is this: if we are sincerely preparing to meet the Lord, we will cheerfully bring our lives into harmony with the light which God has given to prepare His people for translation. Largely the question is one of attitude toward light which we know the Lord has given to us. I am glad to be able to tell you that there are many thousands of Seventh-day Adventists who find the health reform to be a great blessing. It has been a blessing to the White family through all the years.

I am concerned that there is an indifference on the part of some to this important part of our message. We will surely see the day soon when there will be a revival in this matter. But of course, we must remember that the health reform program is a broad program, and the use of flesh food is just one part of it.

> Your second question relates to the 144,000, and you ask how we can harmonize the statement in Great Controversy with the thought that those who are raised to life in the special resurrection will constitute a part of the 144,000. Frankly, I cannot harmonize the two, and I think your problem arises not from what Sister White has written in her book but on an interpretation which some have placed on her statements. I am fully aware of what Elder Loughborough has written in a pamphlet which he published privately, in which he set forth his views and the report of what Sister White is supposed to have said in response to a question put before her. I must tell you, however, without in any way casting reflection on our dear Brother Loughborough, that I fail to find anything in Sister White's writings, published or unpublished, which would substantiate the thought that the 144,000 will be constituted in part of those who are called from their graves in the special resurrection. Sister White counseled that we read her books to know what she taught. Surely a reading of Great Controversy makes it very clear that the 144,000 are living saints who have passed through the trials during the seven last plagues and have stood without a Mediator after probation has closed. This cannot be said of the group who will be raised in the special resurrection. It is true that in 1850 in writing of Sister Hastings' who had died, Sister White said that she was sealed and would be raised to life in the special resurrection and with the 144,000 would hear the announcement of the coming of Christ. You will recall the statement in Early Writings, page 40, where Sister White asked that she might stay on the planet where she met Enoch, but she was told, "You must go back, and if you are faithful, you, with the 144,000, shall have the privilege of visiting all the worlds and viewing the handiwork of God." Actually the Lord has veiled in secrecy the exact identity of the 144,000, and I believe He has done so to prevent us from numbering Israel. The qualifications of the 144,000 have been made very clear, and that is the point which is of importance to us. < I am enclosing a mimeographed document which may be of interest to you in this connection.