

The Ellen G. White Estate

(Incorporated)

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F. M. Wilcox
J. L. Shaw
J. E. Fulton
W. C. White
M. E. Kern

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J. L. Shaw	W. C. White
J. E. Fulton	D. E. Robinson
G. A. Calkins	M. E. Kern
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"Elmshaven" St. Helena, California

September 1, 1937.

Henry, Herbert, Mabel,
Grace and Frances.

Dear Ones:

A few hours ago we sent word to you by wire of papa's sudden death early this morning. It is due you at this my first opportunity to tell you a little of the circumstances and of the plans which are being formulated.

As you know, Sunday, August 29, was his 83d birthday. While we have been noticing a rather steady decline in his physical condition during the past eight months, yet he was continuing with his work in good spirits, taking his usual interest in it, in the affairs about the home and in the advancement of our denominational work.

Sunday and Monday we spent in a trip to Mountain View to attend a White Estate Board meeting Sunday afternoon, and to study with the Pacific Press brethren certain book illustration problems Monday morning, papa taking an active part in the work at the Press although he expressed some feeling of weakness which he said he had felt for several days.

Yesterday morning he came to the office at about 10 o'clock and gave study to the work he was doing on the "Sketches." In the afternoon he walked to the office again and among other things wrote a little note for publication in the REVIEW expressing his appreciation to the hundreds of friends who had remembered his birthday. This is the last work he did.

I took him home to supper at 6 o'clock. I am told that after a light supper, he took charge of worship, seemingly very clear and bright; and then read the REVIEW until about 8 o'clock. Feeling the eye-strain, he retired, but was restless; and at 10 o'clock took a warm bath hoping to quiet his nerves. We do not know whether he slept after the bath but at a quarter of twelve he dressed and awakened mother telling her of his scarcity of breath and asking her if she could do something to help. She called me at once and I called Helen Webster and through the Websters, the Sanitarium, and asked Dr. Vollmer to come as quickly as possible.

Helen Webster came to the house at once. She is a very efficient nurse and she took charge of affairs in a masterly way, knowing just what to do. Through her treatment, papa was made a little more comfortable and then Dr. Vollmer came in. He made rather a hasty examination and found that the cause of the difficulty was an embolism causing a congestion in the lungs. He gave two or three hypodermics to stimulate the heart muscle and then advised he be taken to the Sanitarium where they could have the

benefits of oxygen. Before leaving, papa requested that we pray. Of course, we had all been praying in our hearts and working fast; but with this request that we pray for the forgiveness of transgressions and for healing if it was the Lord's will, we all knelt and Dr. Vollmer plead with God for help.

We then carried him to Dr. Vollmer's car and he was taken to the Sanitarium and made as comfortable as possible in a room on the fifth floor. He showed material signs of weakness. The oxygen was brought and used and every human effort was made to aid over the crisis, but he closed his eyes in rest at 1:25 just about an hour and a half after the marked symptoms of difficult breathing appeared.

Mother, Ella, Doris and I were in the room with him as he died. His difficult breathing made it impossible for him to talk with us. Dr. Vollmer feels he was conscious to the last and death came without a struggle.

His last words to mother were, as he was leaving the house, "Tell mother that I am feeling much better." And his last request was for a hot water bottle to warm his feet.

After his death we went to Dr. Vollmer's office and there we laid plans for the funeral, etcetra. The only suitable building large enough to accommodate those who will probably wish to attend the funeral aside from our Sanitarium chapel, which could not be used for such purposes, is the College Chapel; and we are planning to hold the funeral there Sunday afternoon at two o'clock. We called Elder Calkins by phone and asked him to take charge of the funeral services rather anticipating that he will secure a General Conference man to preach the funeral sermon if such is available.

Following the funeral, mother and I will take the Overland train for Battle Creek, leaving Suisun at 10:28. This will place us in Chicago Wednesday morning a week from today. Plans are for a

funeral in Battle Creek Thursday afternoon and papa will be laid to rest beside his father and mother and brothers in the Oak Hill cemetery.

While we have anticipated such a time as this as an eventuality, it has all come so suddenly that it seems almost like a dream. On the other hand, I think we should be grateful to God that in his letting father rest he was not permitted to linger or suffer over a long period of time. He died with the armor of work on. He worked here at the office within seven hours of his death. When he went to the Sanitarium he carried the vault keys with him.

Of course, papa's death will bring about a major change in the Estate work. Four years ago plans were laid for the removal of the files and the work to Washington in the event that he could no longer continue as the Custodian. Just how long this will take and how it will be worked out I cannot say. We are calling a meeting of our Board for Saturday night, September 4. We have asked Elder Shaw to come at once. Then there are papa's affairs to be taken care of. That will take some time. However, this morning we have been discussing the advisability of mother's remaining in the East with Henry and Herbert for a few weeks following the Battle Creek funeral. There will probably be nothing to bring her back to California at

once, and we think it may be just as well for her to spend a little time in the East when it can be done with very little additional travel expense. She may stay, and return with me late in October.

Every one is very kind and helpful. This morning I received a telegram from the General Conference. It is addressed to the family, and so I give it as follows: "Committee and General Conference family deeply grieved to learn of Elder White's death. Lament the passing of a faithful leader in the work and join in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to you and other members of the family." Signed, H. T. Elliott, Associate Secretary General Conference S. D. A.

Just what mama's future plans will be it is too early to know. I think, however, we will endeavor to work things out so as to free her from responsibility at St. Helena.

Well, this is a sad day in our experience. On the other hand, we rejoice that papa had a part a few years ago in developing plans for the Estate work so that it may be carried forward without serious handicap. Just Sunday on the way to Mountain View we reviewed with profit the guidance of God in the steps that have been taken during the past few years binding this work together in good shape. He felt easy regarding the future and had confidence in his brethren that the work would be carried on as it should be. This perhaps is all I need write for the present.

Lovingly,



ALW;r

P. S. We are hoping, of course, that the relatives from Southern California will be able to attend the funeral here; and Henry and Herbert with their families can attend the funeral being planned for at Battle Creek, Thursday afternoon, September nine.

A.