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General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
NOT FOR DUPLICATION OR PUBLICATION

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Prof. W. W. Prescott,
"Norfolk Villa," Prospect St.,
Granville, N.S.W.,
AUSTRALIA.

July 19, 1898.

Very Dear Brother:---

We have received two short letters from you, written at Honolulu, and I have also had the privilege of reading the one written to your folks, wherein you more minutely describe your experience on the journey. Many thanks for them all. I am thankful for the Lord's blessing and care that have been over you, and thankful that you got along as well as you did. I feel sorry that Sister Prescott had such a time, yet I hope the latter part of the voyage was more favorable for her. We shall be glad to receive still further information concerning the situation and the work in Honolulu. I can appreciate what you say with reference to the situation there. I trust and pray that Bro. Gates will have health and strength for the work in that field. The truth has not been rightly represented there, and much prejudice has been created on this account, which will have to be overcome by the laborers who are there at present. But so it is; if we do not occupy the ground with the truth, the devil will; and if he can use those who profess a love for the truth, he will do so to the utmost extent.

With reference to developments here, I have nothing new to write. I returned home from the camp-meetings nearly three weeks ago. When I left the office for the camp-meetings, I was just about as worn as I could be and be around. I did not attend the camp-meetings for a rest; but I thought that a change would be favorable, and I was also desirous of meeting our people as they assembled at these annual gatherings, and learning more from personal observation how they were getting along. I was not able to take hold of the work as I usually do. This rather grated on my feelings; but I did the best I could. While there are many things to encourage hope, and cause reason for rejoicing in the truth, yet the general spiritual condition of our people is not what it ought to be, and there is a sad state of inactivity among a very large majority. This is a time when, above all others, every individual should be harnessed in the work, and performing active service for God and humanity. As you will see by my report in the Review, I was especially impressed with the large number of young people in attendance at all these meetings. And I am happy to say that our young people never presented a more favorable appearance than on these occasions. Indeed, they seemed to be, if I may use a comparison, the more serious part of the congregation, in some respects. I feel a burden on my soul, in view of this state of things. If there is a reasonably successful year, and money can be gotten hold of, I think that our schools will be largely attended next year, more so than at any previous time.

I inclose with this a copy of a communication received from Sister White in the last mail, bearing on the educational work. It seems to be a compliment to the one we received while you were here. I see in this that Sister White is very anxious that we should not take extreme views on any subject, but that we should sense things as the Lord would have us to realize them, and not go to an extreme one way or the other. Oh how important it is to be well-balanced in all our work! I will send a copy of this communication to all our schools, and trust that this also may prove helpful in the instruction it contains.

W.W.P.)-3-

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I am now planning to attend the Atlantic camp-meeting beginning August 1, and also to go to Texas, and to attend some other meetings in the South. The Foreign Mission Board desires me to go to Mexico in company with Bro. A.R. Henry, to become acquainted with the work there, and assist Bro. D.T. Jones in selecting a site for permanent location for our work in that country; but I can not see how I can comply with this request at the present time. I feel very much burdened for the condition of our home work. Many of the laborers that are occupying important places seem to lack in comprehending the work in its length and breadth, and they need help. I only wish that I had more strength, mentally, physically, and spiritually.

I can appreciate your feelings of weariness. The last trips that I have taken on the ocean were under similar circumstances to the way in which you started out; when I got on the water, it seemed as though I collapsed. Of course the weariness, with the peculiar motions of the boat, helped to bring about this state. Well, I am glad that you have had the opportunity for some rest. I am sure that you will not be wanting in good resolutions with reference to the future; and I shall highly congratulate you if you are able to carry them out with the same earnestness that you make them. I know what it is to make good resolutions, and to think what one will do at some time in the future. But when one gets into the machine, as it were, and the force of circumstances are brought to bear upon him, it is very difficult to keep the rules and regulations that he has laid down for himself. Well, I trust you will do better than I have been able to do.

I shall ask Bro. Nicola to write you with reference to matters of interest that have come up in our work. I trust that this will find you well, and you and all your company in good spirits. May the Lord's special blessing be with you. According to your plans of sailing, you will probably reach Sydney by next Tuesday. I wish I could be there to welcome you from your first long sailing trip. But we will do the best we can here. May the Lord's blessing be with us all. We desire to be remembered in the prayers of those that have an interest in the work.

As ever,

Yours in the blessed hope,

R.