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The Review and Herald

WASHINGTON, D. C.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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Takoma Park Station,

August 7, 1908.

Elder A. G. Daniells,
257 S. Hill St.,
Los Angeles, Cal.

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

Dear Brother Daniells: - -

You will, of course, remember the action taken by the REVIEW AND HERALD Board, instructing the management to erect an addition to our present building. I have never felt very enthusiastic about this matter, and since the action was taken I have had several talks with Brethren Evans and Curtiss as to the propriety of waiting a while before going forward with this enterprise. In the early part of this week, Brother Evans told us in committee meeting of the financial situation of the General Conference. That he had sent out no remittances to the field for the month of July, and had practically nothing in hand to send out for August. Brother Curtiss at the same time told me of the financial situation so far as the Review and Herald is concerned. At that time he had in the bank less than \$200, with paper bills amounting to \$2,600 due in ten days. I should add, however, that we have on deposit in another bank about \$3,500, a special loan which we laid aside to use in erecting the addition. The General Conference at that time owed the Review office almost exactly \$2,000 and Brother Curtiss had been depending upon the payment of

this account as a means of meeting the paper bills, but as the General Conference was in considerable stress, we feared that they might not be able to meet this account and thus force us to draw on the deposit which we had reserved for building/operations. In view of these facts we held another consultation over the matter, but Brother Evans thought that he could pay a portion of the amount due, and Brother Curtiss thought he could collect enough from other sources to tide us over, and therefore the matter was allowed to go on.

On reading the proof of Sister White's article for the next paper, yesterday afternoon, I found the following paragraph which will appear in the next REVIEW: "God designs that we shall learn lessons from the failures of the past. It is not pleasing to him to have debts rest upon his institutions. We have reached the time when we must give character to the work by refusing to erect large and costly buildings. We are not to copy the mistakes of the past, and become more and more involved in debt. We are rather to endeavor to clear off the indebtedness that still remains on our institutions. Our churches can help in this matter if they will. Those members to whom the Lord has given means can invest their money in the cause without interest or at a low rate of interest, and by their free-will offerings they can help to support the work. The Lord asks you to return cheerfully to him a portion of the goods he has lent you, and thus become his almoners." This morning I called Brother Curtiss' attention to this matter, and as we had a Board meeting this noon, I read it to the brethren, asking whether it might not apply to our case, and whether we ought not to defer the building matter at least until we could secure counsel. The brethren, therefore, recommended that I should write

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to you, sending you a copy of this paragraph and asking you to confer with Brother White and his mother, asking if she has any special counsel to give us under the circumstances; and in harmony with this recommendation I am sending you this letter.

In order to give you an intelligent basis for asking for counsel, I will state some facts about our situation: We are now sending out an average of 50,000 periodicals per week, as against 25,000 when we removed to Washington. During the month of July, the retail value of books, tracts, pamphlets, and periodicals sent out from this office was almost exactly \$30,000, an average of more than \$1,000 per day for every working day.

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During the week ending July 31, more than 5,000 books were bound in our bindery, the average being 850 books per day. This was in addition to the handling of the periodicals. The August edition of LIFE AND HEALTH is 55,000 copies, and Brother Reavis told me that he had received more orders for 1,000 copies each than on any previous issue of the magazine. We have now occupied all available space for storage purposes. The room designed for the foundry is full, and ^{all} the room that can be spared in the basement is occupied, and we have stored signatures in one end of the chapel and in the hallways. I am very sure that if an inspector should visit our building, he would require us to remove some of these signatures from the hallway, as being an element of danger in case of fire. Our business is rapidly increasing. At our meeting to-day, Brother Curtiss submitted a statement showing that the gross income on our periodicals for the month of June was almost exactly \$1,500 in excess of the same month in 1907. Of course you understand this is gross income, not profits. During the same month, the books shipped out from the book de-

partment amounted to \$476.89 more than for the same month in 1907. Brother Palmer has received a sufficient number of reports from the field to warrant him in saying that his summary for July will show a total sales of over \$100,000. He thinks it altogether likely that it will run to \$110,000. I had a talk with him this week over the general outlook for the sale of our literature, and he expresses himself as confident that there will be no falling back in the future. With all these facts before us, there seem to be only two courses open for us to pursue, - - either to make the proposed addition to the building and provide facilities for doing the required work, or to do what we can with the facilities now at our command, and turn the balance of our work to other offices, either our own or to outside offices. I need not tell you what it means to send our work to outside offices, as you well know the difficulties which we confront in an effort to secure satisfactory work. The Globe Printing Company of this city is as well equipped as any office need to be, and is one of the best printing offices in the city, yet we always had difficulty to secure anything like satisfactory work on our periodicals, to say nothing of book work. Furthermore, we are now six or seven miles from the other printing offices in town, and it involves a lot of extra cartage to have work done at that distance.

Personally, I very much dislike to go ahead with the addition to the building, and would be glad if we could find some reasonable solution to the question, which would not involve this expenditure. Brother Curtiss takes the same view of the question, but we do not know just what to do. A temporary building, which would provide storage room would possibly enable us to get on for another year, unless the circulation of our periodicals should be

very largely increased. At present the capacity of our press room is pretty well taxed, and you know that we are occupying all possible room with our four cylinder presses. At the rate our business is increasing, we shall doubtless be compelled to put in at least one more cylinder press during the next year.

Now I have made such a statement of the facts as I think will enable you to understand our situation, and hope you will secure counsel, and write us as soon as possible. In the meantime, we shall suspend operations until we hear from you. We have purchased quite an amount of sand, three or four cars of crushed rock, and some cement, but all this material can be stored with ^{no} appreciable loss, in case we should decide to defer building operations for another year.

While I am writing to you, I will add a little concerning Brother Underwood's pamphlet. The last issue of the WATCHMAN contains an article over a column in length from Brother Butler, under the title, "An Excellent and Remarkable Treatise," in which he recommends the pamphlet in very strong terms, as you may see from the following quotation: "We greatly admire the clearness, the force, and the forcible logic of this treatise. Indeed, we cannot recall any articles on this topic which as a whole so broadly, briefly, comprehensively elucidate the covenant question. We believe it will bear the closest investigation. We advise all the ministers of this denomination to get a copy and carefully read it. We can say the same to all our people who are interested in the law and covenant questions; and surely they are questions of the greatest importance."

Brother Butler further says that "For certain reasons, Elder Underwood has modestly chosen to take the whole responsibility

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of personally issuing this pamphlet. . . . Possibly later on other arrangements may be made where it can be obtained."

I judge from this that Brother Butler will make an effort to have this pamphlet regularly published by one of our publishing houses, - - probably the Southern.

On the last page of the same issue was a paragraph calling attention to Brother Butler's article, and referring to the pamphlet as "that excellent booklet by Elder R. A. Underwood."

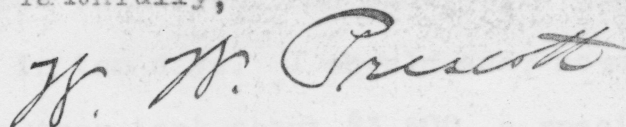
I hope you will take time to look at this pamphlet, and talk the matter over with some of the brethren on the Coast. It appears to me that it is a renewal of the old controversy, and that it involves practically the same things that were in the Minneapolis issue. I feel quite strongly that I shall be compelled to take up this subject in the REVIEW; not in a controversial way, but to make clear the truth and to prevent our people from being confused on the vital principles of the message.

Sister Daniells has just told me to-day something of your experience with A. T. Jones. "How are the mighty fallen!"

I shall be glad to hear from you concerning your experiences on the Coast if you have time to write about them, but at all events you must take time to write me about this building proposition.

Please remember me to the brethren and friends.

Yours faithfully,



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