

8-30-96

Union College, Kenilworth, Near Cape Town, South Africa,

August 30th, 1896.

Mrs. Ellen G. White,
Cooranbong, New South Wales,

W. H. Prescott

Dear Sister White:-

The last boat from Australia brought us your personal letter to us, copies of recent letters to Eld. Olsen, and the remaining chapters of the manuscript for the new book. For all this we thank you very heartily and appreciate your kindness in remembering us.

A week ago yesterday afternoon (sabbath) I read a portion of your letter to us which came by the previous boat, giving some account of your personal experiences, what you were doing for others who were in distress and how cramped you were yourself for means with which to live and carry forward the work. It seemed to take hold of the people. I did not read it primarily to raise money but to let them see what consecration meant in a practical way. Within a day or two afterward I received an envelope on which was written, "For the work in Australia as the cause of God may need; from one who loves the Lord." I opened it and found ten pounds in it. Knowing that Eld. Haskell was sending you some money I added this to what he was to send and I suppose it went by the last boat. I only wish it was more and possibly it may be. I suppose you will have received the thousand pounds before this reaches you and so will have something with which to commence putting up the buildings. I earnestly hope that this will make it possible to erect what buildings may be necessary to get the school started on a permanent basis. I shall be interested to hear what is done.

We are well started on our Bible School and the Lord is blessing us for which I am very thankful, but I am deeply burdened over the situation here. There seems to be such a thick crust of Phariseeism, so much of self-righteousness and so little of Christ in their past experience, that it takes time to bring about such a change in their experience as is absolutely necessary. I am sure that they are beginning to appreciate this to some extent and I think that is a hopeful sign. Our meeting yesterday afternoon was the best we have had and I can see that progress has been made. I can say personally that I have never enjoyed the work more than now and never was blessed with more light from the word of God. I know that the Lord is giving me special help and I give him all the praise. The Spirit of the Lord is with us as we study the word and many hearts are touched with a sense of the great love of God and the sacrifice which Christ has made that we might share with him the glories of the world to come. New light is breaking in upon many minds and I believe that permanent good will be accomplished, but the situation in this field is distressing. Very few have been converted to the truth during the past four or five years. There has been

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plenty of money and I think in some ways that has been a hindrance. Time and effort have been expended in building and trying to manage institutions instead of giving the message, and much has been made of the form of truth in the law, but few have known the genuine experience of heart conversion to Christ. All this has caused great prejudice against the truth and that makes the work much harder now. But you know all about this and I need not enlarge upon such an unpleasant topic. I do not know what will come now, but I am earnestly praying and laboring that a different order of things may be seen and that the work may take on a new mould.

I have definitely decided that I must leave here not later than Nov. 1st so as to be in America a few weeks before the opening of the General Conference. This seems to me to be absolutely necessary in order to be prepared to take up the work there intelligently. I have read and re-read your letters to the brethren in America and can but feel deeply over the situation there. I am daily praying that God will especially open the way for the next General Conference and raise up the men who will be prepared to fill the various positions of responsibility. I am sure it is high time to act upon the light given and to trust in God to bring us out of all our troubles.

I am speaking twice each week upon the subject of education and I think I have been able to shape up these principles in a clearer light than I did at Cooranbong. I have read and read what you have given me on this matter and then have gone to the Bible with it and have been able to present it as wholly the teaching of the scripture. All can see that there must be radical changes in order to be in harmony with the principles laid down in the word of God. Truly the Bible is a lamp to our feet and a guide to our path and I can see, as never before, how that we may find there the principles which will guide us in all the relations of life.

But I must bring my letter to a close. You may be sure that we appreciate your letters and shall be glad if you find time to write us frequently. If you have any further special matter with reference to the situation in America, after you receive this, I would be glad to have you send it to me at London (address 451 Holloway Road, London N) so that I may have the privilege of reading it before I reach America. We shall probably leave London the first week in December, so you can tell when to send mail for us there. It will be too late to send anything here after receiving this.

We all join in kind regards to all the friends in Cooranbong and hope we are remembered by them.

Wishing you health and strength for your work and much of the blessing of the Lord to sustain you, I remain,

Yours in Christian love,

