

Union College, Kenilworth, Near Cape Town, South Africa,
August 9th, 1898.

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

W. W. Prescott

Dear Sister White:-

The last boat from Australia brought your letter of July 2nd and the other matter which you were kind enough to send to me. We were deeply interested in what you wrote of your personal experiences, glad if anything which we were able to do was a help to one in distress, and only sorry that we are not able to do more to further the work in Australia. We feel deeply the situation in which you are placed through the lack of sufficient funds either for personal needs or for the needs of the work. I learn from Eld. Haskell that he has arranged for a thousand pounds to be sent to you this month but I wish it were a gift instead of a loan. I hope it may be possible to do something more. All the items which you wrote concerning the work at Cooranbong were appreciated. I had wondered whether any had taken their stand for the truth. It seems a pity for the enemy to be able to turn away so many who were somewhat interested but we can only work and watch and pray. The Lord must give the increase.

I am glad that you wrote somewhat you did about Fanny Bolton. It makes the case so much clearer to my mind. I could not understand how she could be a blessing to you in your work but I now think that she was brought back to you so that your own mind might be relieved of any burden about her leaving you finally. The Lord has opened the way for you to clear yourself fully and yet she is not to be connected with you in your work. I fully believe that the hand of the Lord is in this, and I do not believe your work will be hindered by her leaving. I am sure that there need be no criticism on the way in which the matter which you are now sending me is edited. My criticism on some which Fanny Bolton prepared was that it was edited altogether too much. We prize the most that which comes to us in your own handwriting and you need never hesitate about sending anything to us without its being edited or copied. We can read it readily and understand it. I am glad to hear that you will be able to arrange for your help without sending to America for anyone. I believe this is better.

By the last boat I sent you a letter in which I made some inquiries but I find that a part of them are very clearly answered in the matter which you sent me by this last mail. I have read this matter carefully and repeatedly and have prayed over it, and I am deeply troubled over the situation which it reveals. My first desire is to know what measure of responsibility rests upon me because of my past connection with the work in Battle Creek and how I shall relate myself to the situation when I return. It seems a most terrible thing to me that the work of God has come to that pass that

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there is no longer any Committee or Association whose plans are of God or to whose counsel the people may listen with safety. I do not remember that such a thing was ever stated before since this work began. There certainly ought to be the most sincere repentance, with shame and sorrow, and a turning to the Lord with all the heart. I never felt so much the necessity of seeking the Lord as now. We are being shown that it is unsafe to trust in any man and that God himself must be our Counsellor. But I feel so troubled about the work, to think how it is being hindered and what it will require to counteract all the evil which has resulted from the wrong course which has been pursued. It seems to me that the time has fully come to act in a decided manner and that following the light and the instruction which has now been given in the plainest terms will involve nothing less than a very radical change in plans and methods and will demand the choice of an entirely different class of men in the management of some of our institutions and on some of our committees. It seems hard to tell how far this leaven has spread and who may be tainted by it. Surely the Lord must be sought and he must give wisdom to know what to do now. I feel so sorry for Bro. Olsen and am anxious to know how he will relate himself to these things. It seems to me that these things must come before the leading men of the denomination now, if not before all the people. How can the next General Conference be conducted and the plans laid in harmony with the light given unless the delegates understand the situation fully. They certainly cannot co-operate with the General Conference Committee in adopting right plans and principles if they are kept in the dark about these matters. How can the committees of the Conference be properly appointed without a full statement of the basis upon which it is done. Furthermore, there are presidents of conferences who have been influenced into the same wrong ways and they need the same instruction. It seems to me that it is time for the people to move and that the situation should not be glossed over with general statements any longer. I look forward to the next General Conference with no little anxiety and was sorry to read in your letter to Eld. Haskell that neither you nor W. C. W. expected to attend. Of course if it is the Lord's will that you should go, he can make it clear to you, and so I will leave it there.

I feel that I cannot go back to the old regime and bind myself up with the same management any longer, in view of the testimonies which you have borne, and unless straight paths are made now it will be necessary for me to take a decided stand. I do not wish to do anything rash and I am praying that the Lord will guide me and keep me, but I cannot longer be a party, either directly or indirectly, to a course which God has so plainly rebuked. I must stand clear in the sight of God and take the consequences. I can but have a feeling of dread about going back to America but I shall try to cultivate

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trust in God. The work is his and we are his and he must care for his own. I shall wait with interest to receive anything further which you may have to send and am thankful for copies of this instruction.

I send to W. C. W. a copy of my last letter to the F. M. Board and this will tell you something of my work so far in this field, but this does not touch upon the real situation of the cause in this country. This has been a heavy burden on my mind since coming here. There has certainly been a wrong mould put upon the work here and the cause is making very little progress. There seems to be an almost entire lack of the presence and power of the Spirit of God with the laborers and of course few are being converted to the truth. Last week I had meetings with the workers about Cape Town and laid these things plainly before them. This week we have daily prayer services with the churches. The Bible School opens next Friday and I am praying that we shall have help then. The Lord gave a special manifestation of his Spirit nearly two years ago but it does not seem that a right use has been made of the blessing then granted. The result seems similar to what followed the special blessings in Battle Creek and questionings have arisen. I hope that God will work in his own way for the glory of his name and the advancement of his cause in this country.

Personally we are all well and I am quite busy with my work. I am thinking that it will be necessary for me to leave this country not later than the first of November in order to reach America in time to become somewhat acquainted with the situation before the sessions of the Conference. This is Eld. Olsen's personal request. Things have been planned here with reference to my remaining until the first of December at least, but perhaps they can be readjusted, if it seems best to leave earlier.

I am trying to do what I can for the school here and have already begun work which I hope may yield good results. I feel quite hopeful that something can be accomplished. Prof. Efficers, who has recently been placed in charge of the institution, seems desirous of knowing and following correct principles. The matter which you have sent me will be a great help to me in trying to do this work.

I send you with this the letter to Eld. Haskell which Mrs. Prescott borrowed of you to copy while we were at Cooranbong. There was no opportunity to do this copying while in Australia and I have done it since and now return the letter with thanks.

We shall be glad to hear from you as you may have time to write and to receive such instruction as you may think advisable to place in our hands. You may be sure that we are praying for you all and for the work in Australia. Remember us to all the friends.

Yours in Christian love,

H. H. Prescott