

W. W. Prescott

53 Mercers Road, London N, Feb. 21st, 1898.

Mrs. ELLEN G. WHITE

Cooranbong,

New South Wales:

Dear Sister White:-

I have not received any reply to my letter written to you last November, but there are some matters concerning which I wish to advise with you and so I will write again.

I sent you a copy of our Missionary Worker for January in which was a full report of our meeting here in London during the holidays. We had a most excellent meeting and the good results of it are plainly seen in the work since that time. I now send you a copy of the Missionary Worker for February in which you will find some mention of an evening school which we have been holding for three evening each week since the close of the general meeting. In addition to what is stated in the report I would like to tell you that I am seeing more clearly than ever before how it is possible to conduct a school with the Bible as the principal text-book. In fact it has seemed to us that in order to secure an education in harmony with the principles of eternal truth, it would be necessary in the very nature of the case to have the Bible, the word of God, as the source of all foundation principles which would simply be illustrated by observation and the reading of such books as present facts obtained by actual observation, not the theories of men who may be called scientists. The whole field has opened up to us in a wonderful way and I have often felt as though I would like to spend a short time at least with the teachers at Cooranbong, including Eld. Haskell, that we might talk over these things together.

Now the question has pressed itself upon my mind whether we ought not to make a beginning here in England in the proper education of the youth and such as would like to give themselves to the Lord's work. We should be obliged to start in a small way, as we have but little means and I do not wish to load up with a debt the first thing. I have thought of renting some place in the country where we could cultivate the soil and at the same time be near enough to some town so that we could undertake other lines of work with some prospect of a market for our labor. One of our brethren about sixty miles from London, who is heartily interested in the message, has a boot business and puts out work to other members of the church and thus makes it possible for them to keep the sabbath and yet earn a living. It has occurred to me that if we could locate near him, he might be able to render us substantial assistance by giving us work from his shop. We expect to have a general meeting in Ireland in June and another in England in August, and I would be glad to have your counsel about this matter before I present it to the people at these meetings. Do you think it advisable to attempt such a

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work and have you any counsel concerning it? Since this school work has opened up here it has seemed to us that we could see more clearly why we were brought to this field. I am sure that I should not have been able to work these things out in any of the large schools in America, and so far as I can understand the situation from what I see in print, they are not working them out either. It seems to me that they still have things wrong end to, and that they are not in any real sense making the Bible the principal book of study. I am very thankful for the light which I have seen on this matter lately and I can see how our schools can be in advance of any others in the world, if we are willing to give the Lord a chance to be the guide and his Spirit the instructor through his word. Here is wisdom for every department of human thought and study. All here seem to be in harmony with this way of conducting a school and I think there would be a good opportunity to work on the right lines, so far as our limited means would permit. I shall be much interested to hear from you on this question.

Our work in general is taking on a very encouraging turn. We feel as though the Lord was teaching us how to present the message to the people so that it would not be necessary to remain for one or two years in a place in order to bring out a company of sabbath-keepers, and we are beginning to work on that basis. For the past month I have been assisting what I could in a special effort in one of the suburbs of London and we have been much encouraged at the results. We have presented the truth in the simplest possible way, but have come directly to the leading themes of the message, the coming of the Lord and the preparation for it, including the keeping of the Lord's sabbath. We feel as though the Lord had especially blessed us and quite a number, we do not know exactly how many, have already begun to observe the sabbath. Two very intelligent young women, who have been active Christian workers in connection with their laundry business, have decided of their own accord to sell their business and support themselves by selling our paper, the Present Truth. When they decided this they did not know that any others were getting a living in that way, but felt as though they could do it. Their action is making quite a stir among their former associates in Christian work and several of them we think will accept the truth.

Our greatest difficulty is that we have no workers, in comparison with what ought to be in this field. Bro. Spicer has now gone to India, sailing last Friday, and now until other help arrives Bro. Waggoner will be kept very closely in the office and I shall be obliged to help him some on the paper. This interferes with the plans which we had made to go about more among the people in the different cities in connection with some of the less experienced workers. We have reason to expect that Eld. Tenney will come to take Bro. Spicer's place on the paper, but he will not be here for nearly two

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months at the earliest and by that time the best of our winter season will be gone. In the mean time there are only three ministers in all this field with over forty millions of people. Of course there are canvassers and some Bible workers but only three who can publicly address the people of these large cities. It seems too bad, but we can neither create the workers nor make the money with which to support them. We are trying to do the best we can with what we have. I notice that you feel as though Australia was lacking in men and means, but what do you think of our situation here?

There is another thing which is causing us some anxiety here. You may know that heretofore the Echo Pub. Co. has been permitted to use the funds arising from the sale of books sent to them from London in paying the workers in Australia who were in the employment of the General Conference, and then the General Conference has sent the money to London with which to pay for the manufacture of the books. But now the General Conference Association says that it cannot send us any more money and therefore we have written to the brethren in Melbourne that we cannot send them any more books unless they can send us the money with which to pay for printing and binding them. The fact is that we have gotten now into a very tight place for lack of funds to pay the printers for books already sent and it will be a difficult matter for us to get on without defaulting payment. Now if we do not send the books to Australia, it will greatly embarrass the canvassing work there, and if the Echo Pub. Co. send us the money for the books they will not be able to pay the General Conference laborers in that field. We are not able to contract any further bills with our printers without knowing that we shall get the money from some source with which to pay them, as we shall have all we can do to get out of our present embarrassment. I feel troubled over this situation, but we have no resources here and when our brethren in America say that they cannot send us the money with which to pay for the manufacture of the books, we do not dare to contract debts for which we see no way of providing. If we should continue to send the books without pay we should soon be in bankruptcy and then our whole publishing business would go down. I understand that the brethren in America have written to the brethren in Australia about this matter and so I suppose they will understand the matter from their standpoint. I am anxious to know what the outcome will be, and if the General Conference is not able to send us the money with which to manufacture the books, I do not see how they will be able to pay their workers in Australia. Well, I can only wait to see.

Since I wrote you before we have all three had a hard time with colds lasting a month or six weeks, but we are better now. I suppose it was really an attack of the influenza which was very prevalent here. The winter has been mild but very trying on account of so much fog and dampness. We hope

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that the worst is now over, & the days are growing longer and we do see the sun occasionally now. We are looking forward with much anticipation to the long bright days of Spring and Summer. I notice by the papers that you are having another very hot Summer in Australia, but I hope you are getting on reasonably well at Coorambong.

We should be glad to hear from you and to know how the work, especially the school, is prospering; and I hope also for an early answer to the questions which I have raised in this letter.

We all join in kind regards to all the friends there.

Yours in Christian love,

*W. W. Prescott.*

P. S. - My ~~man~~ niece and her mother are still here but they expect to go to the Continent in a week or ten days to be absent for about two months, when we expect my two brothers to visit us for a short time from America.