

W. W. Prescott

Battle Creek, Mich., March 23, 1893.

Mrs. Ellen G. White,

Echo Office, N. Fitzroy, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Dear Sister White:--

I have just received your letter of Feb. 22, written at Kaseo, N.Z., and am glad to hear from you again.

Your view of the question of changing the Mount Vernon Sanitarium into a school will, I think, help materially in the decision of this matter. The stockholders will meet at Mt. Vernon April 11, to act upon the proposition. Elder Olsen feels quite confident that favorable action will be taken, and we shall be able to start a school there next September.

We have been in some perplexity to know what we ought to do here at Battle Creek. The College has been very much overcrowded this year, and we have carried forward the work under some embarrassments, although I presume not so serious as the teachers have labored under in Australia. We have felt, however, the need of further facilities to train those who desire to give themselves to the work. As the light increases and the message rises, there are many persons, of middle age, who desire to connect with the work, and able to do so with profit to the work. Many of them will desire to combine with their other training some knowledge of the health and temperance work, and the members of the different training classes at the Sanitarium need to have regular instruction in the Bible. The Conference Committee therefore thought it advisable to recommend the establishment of a General Conference school, in which to give such practical to these persons as could be obtained in the shortest time, making the leading studies in the school the English Bible and the English Language, with the purpose of connecting with this work. instruction on health and temperance topics. It seemed almost necessary that this school should be established at Battle Creek, where it could be connected with the Sanitarium and where the Sanitarium training class could receive proper instruction in the Bible. It has therefore been decided to make an addition to the north end of the College building, with the double purpose of providing proper room for this new school and also additional recitation rooms for our college work.

Our people are becoming very much interested in our educational work, as you will see by the report which I submitted to the Conference, in which I spoke of the growth during the past two years. Demands are coming in on all sides for the establishment of schools, both at home and abroad. Some feared, when we established Union College, that it would interfere with our work here, but at present we are overcrowded here and they have an enrollment of more than 550 there. I imagine the establishment of a school at Mount Vernon will work about the same way. The result will be that more

students will be in the schools, but I question whether it will relieve us very much here, as more are becoming interested all the time.

I have hesitated some over this matter, as I have not desired to increase the attractions which draw people to Battle Creek, but after considering the question from every standpoint, we hardly knew what other course to take.

I had already begun to furnish copy to the printers before receiving your letter, as the cablegram gave me the necessary instructions to start the work. I shall try to push the work as rapidly as possible, hoping to have the book ready for distribution by the close of the college year. It has occurred to me that you might have in your possession, manuscripts which have never been published, which you would think proper to appear in this book. If so, I would be very glad to have you forward them at once. If you could send them by the May boat, so as to reach here early in June, I think the book could still be issued on time.

I will see that all rights are reserved in such a way that it will not infringe upon your liberty to use the matter in any way that you may deem best hereafter.

We have been extremely busy for over two months in committee meetings, Institute work, and the Conference. You no doubt received the "Bulletin" and it will not, therefore, be necessary for me to speak of any actions taken in the Conference. Our committee work, in trying to carry out instruction suggested by the Conference has been quite perplexing. We adjourned Tuesday, although there are many matters still requiring further attention.

We have just received word from South Africa to the effect that their school was over-crowded from the very opening. They have been obliged to employ two or three teachers not of our faith, in order to carry forward their work, and they now send an urgent appeal for more help to be sent to them at once, as well as a request for two teachers to open a church school in Beaconsfield, where the brethren will guarantee their support. Thus the work is spreading everywhere. It will require much wisdom so to plan our educational work for next year that all may work to the best advantage in carrying out the various recommendations.

The Lord came very near by his Spirit during our Conference, and we feel that great good was accomplished for all whose hearts were open to receive the light and blessing from God. I have never known the laborers to go forth with such a degree of hope and courage in the Lord.

On every hand we see evidences that the conflict is deepening and that a new life is taking hold of the opposition, and also a new power is attending the laborers for God. We are all of good courage, although there are many perplexities constantly attending the work.

I am always glad to hear from you and shall be pleased to receive in the next mail, the article to which you refer in your letter. My wife joins me in sending much love. Hoping to see you again in due time, I remain, Yours very truly, W. W. Prescott.