

On Board S. S. Nineveh, May 12th, 1896.

Five Days out from Melbourne.

Mrs. Ellen G. White,
Cooranbong, N. S. W.

H. H. Prescott

Dear Sister White:-

We were much pleased to receive your letter of the 4th inst while at Melbourne. It reached us just the day before we sailed and we were glad of a final word from the work at Cooranbong before leaving Australia. It found us all well and busy doing the last things before sailing.

You may be interested in learning something of our experiences since we sailed from Sydney. We had a very smooth and pleasant day the first day out from Sydney but the next day (Sunday) was as bad a one as we often meet at sea. Mrs. Prescott and Lewis were both sick and it was so rough and wild on deck that they were not able to leave their cabin until we reached Port Philip Bay in the evening. If we had had a favorable run we should have reached Melbourne in ample time for the meeting which they had appointed for me but on account of the head wind and rough sea we did not reach the pier until about midnight Sunday night. Bro. Daniells filled the appointment very acceptably. I was very busy while at Melbourne, writing and studying all day and speaking each evening. We had a good attendance and an excellent interest at these meetings and all seemed to think that they were a source of encouragement. I think an excellent and a permanent work has been done in following up the interest first started at the Armadale meeting and some most excellent people have embraced the truth and others are still interested. A good number of strangers attended the meetings while I was there.

We left Melbourne at five o'clock last Thursday afternoon. A large number of the friends came to the boat to see us off and the hearty expressions of gratitude for the benefit which they had received from a knowledge of the truth which they had recently embraced (this from the new ones) and the earnest good wishes of all for our future prosperity were more to us than we could well express. It has been a source of great encouragement to us to see so many receive the truth since we have been in Australia and we shall always remember our labors there with a peculiar interest.

The first day our from Melbourne was a delightful one, just like the first day from Sydney. This gave us a chance to get settled and somewhat accustomed to the motion of the ship. Since the first day we have had rather a severe time of it until this morning. Sabbath and Sunday were very rough days. We ran directly in the face of a gale of wind and the sea was high. Very few were able to leave their cabins but I had Mrs. Prescott and Lewis

5-12-96

Mrs. E. G. W. 2.

on deck before breakfast. They were sitting together in their large iron chair and I was next to them when the ship was struck by a large wave and the sudden lurch completely upset their chair and threw them violently against the rail with the chair on top of them. When I had picked them up I found that Lewis had received a severe cut on his forehead. It was about an inch long and so deep that the doctor was obliged to take a stitch or two to bring it together. This was a severe operation for the little fellow but he got through it well and the wound has been healing well since. Sunday was fully as bad as Sabbath and the most of the passengers were very uncomfortable. Fortunately I have not been sick at all and so have been able to give the others proper attention. My niece suffered some inconvenience but did not have a real hard time. The wind abated some yesterday but there was a heavy sea rolling and the motion of the ship was at times quite trying. ^{and again} The ship would dip low enough to put our cabin port holes completely under water and they are set unusually high, but it gradually grew quieter and while there is some sea on this morning yet it is comparatively quiet and all are feeling reasonably well. Mrs. Prescott has had no really sick turn since yesterday noon and is able to eat and retain something at each meal. Lewis is well and happy and playing about.

We have been delayed some by the heavy weather but if all goes well now we shall probably reach Albany before tomorrow noon. We stop there for six or eight hours and this will give opportunity to get all straightened out ready for the longer run to Cape Town. We find our ship a good one and are well pleased with the management.

I regret to say that the matter which you spoke of sending me did not reach me before sailing. I arranged with the brethren at Melbourne to forward it if they could find it anywhere but I fear that it will not appear. I hope you will be able to send me another copy by the next boat. I shall look for it then. I am very sorry that I missed it. I shall also look for other matter at the same time, as Sister Burnham was sure that they would have more matter copied for me by that time.

I shall be glad to hear further from the work at Cooranbong and hope that a substantial addition may be made to the Avondale church as the result of the interest growing out of the institute. We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Butler has become so bitter. I had hoped that she might be led to obey the truth. What about Mr. & Mrs. Baker and others who were interested. Have any of them decided to obey yet? I hope so.

We leave the work in Australia with mingled feelings of gladness and regret. I have enjoyed the work very much and it has been a great source

Mrs. E. G. W. 3.

5.12-96

of encouragement to me to see people embracing the truth while I have been here and I have greatly enjoyed this as compared with my previous work at Battle Creek. If it should be the Lord's will that I should do more of this kind of work in the future I am sure that it would be quite agreeable to me. As we go to Cape Town and I realize something of the work which ought to be accomplished there I can only pray that the Lord who has been with us in the past will continue his goodness and make all grace abound. In this way only will the right results be accomplished.

The word from America by the last mail seemed in some ways encouraging and I hope there will soon be better days. At the same time I can see that there may be a greater crisis by the time of the next General Conference. We can only wait and pray for the best. I notice in your letter that you say that you seem to have evidence that it is your work to remain in Australia and attend to your writing. If this is best I would not of course say a word against it, although I had hoped that it might appear to be duty to be in America by the next General Conference.

If you think best to show this letter to Bro. and Sr. Rousseau ~~and other~~ friends it will give them the news concerning our trip. I will send a copy to Eld. Daniells for the benefit of the friends in Victoria.

I hope we may have the privilege of hearing from you often. With kind regards to all the friends in both colonies and best wishes for the prosperity of the work in all places, I remain,

Yours in Christian love,

W. H. Prescott.