

*W. W. Prescott*

On Board S. S. Neneveh,  
En Route from Cape Town to London,  
November 10th, 1895.

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

Dear Sister White:-

This steamer which we took at Cape Town brought three packages of matter from you, including your personal letter, all of which was gladly received. We appreciate very much your kindness in remembering us so regularly when you have so much writing to do.

Eld. Haskell has now been with you about a month and he has of course told you all about the general condition of things in South Africa, so I do not need to take the time to speak further of those matters. After he left the Bible School continued with a good interest up to the time of our leaving. I think I wrote you of our intention to conduct meetings in Cape Town during the month of October, and I believe I have sent you some outlines of the addresses which I gave in that connection. That attendance was quite good throughout and the interest kept up well. Our last meeting was the night before we came on board this ship. This work will be followed up by the workers in visiting, canvassing, and other meetings. I am hopeful that a good number will take their stand for the truth if the interest is well followed up.

The South African conference held its sessions during the last three weeks of our stay. All the brethren, including Eld. Robinson himself, were of the opinion that a change of management was desirable and an effort was made to secure Eld. Porter to come from America but the brethren there did not see their way clear in this direction and so Eld. Robinson was elected with the understanding that the question of sending someone would receive consideration at the next General Conference. I left the brethren of good courage and quite hopeful for the future.

In some ways my work in South Africa was not so satisfactory in its results as it was in Australia, but the circumstances are quite different, as you well know. Personally I enjoyed much of the blessing of the Lord in my work and I know that many received a new experience as we studied the word of God together, but there has been a sad lack in the real spirit of true religion and there has been a feeling of discouragement from the fact that so few have taken hold of the truth in recent years. I see no reason why the truth should not advance there if the right kind of effort is put forth. I hope that a turning point has been reached and that a better condi-

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tion of things will exist hereafter. The conference ~~am~~ did not see its way clear to renew credentials or license to Bro. P. J. D. Wessels or Scholtz. You know in regard to Bro. Wessels case. Since that experience he has seemed to make an effort to regain his former experience and with partial success I hope, but under all the circumstances I could not urge that his credentials should be returned to him. Both of these brethren seemed to me lack a proper appreciation of the sacred character of the ministry and their way of doing seemed to cheapen the standing of the ministry in the eyes of the people. Besides this, the influence of Bro. Scholtz' family is not what it should be for a minister's family. They are decidedly worldly and exert a worldly influence. I fear for the Wessels family. Philip has given up the truth entirely, Henry is very inconstant, and you know of Peter's recent exp<sup>er</sup>iences. Mother Wessels knows nothing of this but is much distressed over her children. Dan received no benefit but rather injury by his visit to America, and Francis has married a young woman from Chicago who is not a sabbath keeper. It seems as though they would all have been better off if they had never had their money. John is about the only real reliable one, but he holds fast to the truth and desires to dispose of his property and take his means to some other country where it is needed and invest it in the work. The General Conference has had some correspondence with him about going to India but he recently had an approach to a sun-stroke and he fears that opiate. I said something to him about going to Australia and I think he would look favorably upon such a plan. He cannot go for about a year at the least, as it would require that time for him to settle up his business so as to close it all out. Would you like to have him come to Australia and help to start the school and the health work?

I have been looking over again some of the matter which you have sent to America during the past two years and have copied a large number of extracts bearing upon the conduct of the work. As I review these testimonies and bring them all together I am impressed with the greatness of the wrong which has been committed in the management of the Lord's work and I can see very plainly that just what the testimonies said would come, if this course was persisted in, has come and the work is suffering terribly from it now. I earnestly hope that wisdom will be given to take the right course at the General Conference and that this heavy cloud which now rests upon the work may be removed. I understood from Eld. Robinson that W. C. White was making an effort to attend the next General Conference, but you said nothing about it in your letter to me. I should be glad to see him there if it should seem

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best for him to come. Eld. Haskell has all the time maintained that you were more than likely to be there but I have not had much hope in that direction since I left Australia. It would be very agreeable to me, however, to be surprised in this respect. I am hoping for the best but I can but have some misgivings as I think of the situation and of the times which are ahead of us.

I was extremely tired when we came on board this ship but I have rested all I could and am feeling much better. We have had a very comfortable voyage so far, having had only two rough days in the two weeks. We expect to reach Tenerife day after tomorrow and London by Wednesday or Thursday of next week. We shall make but a short stay in London, as I am anxious now to reach America as soon as possible in order to have all the time before the Conference. I hope that we may reach New York by Dec. 15-20.

I am anxious to hear from the camp-meeting work in Australia and hope you will find time to write me about it. I often thought of you during the meeting at Adelaide and prayed for the prosperity of the meeting.

While on this voyage I have made a copy of one of your articles, "The Great Need of the Holy Spirit", and as Eld. Starr said that you could not find a copy of it for him I will send you a copy. I used it with excellent effect in Africa and if it has not been published it seems to me that it would do much good in one of our publications. It appears to have been prepared for publication but I do not remember to have seen it.

I owe Bro. White a letter and may get time to write him before we reach London, but I shall expect that he will read this and so I shall not repeat what I have written to you.

I shall hope to hear from you after we reach home and shall be glad to receive such matter as you think it would be well for me to read.

With kind regards to all the friends, I remain,

Yours in Christian love,

*H. H. Prescott*

*Nov. 20th*

*Arrived, all well.*