

*H. H. Prescott*

Battle Creek, Mich. Oct. 5, 1893.

Mrs. Ellen G. White,  
Banks Terrace, Wellington, New Zealand.

Dear Sister:--

I received, early last month, the article which you sent to me addressed to the "Dear brethren in America". I have read to the Battle Creek church that portion of it which applied particularly to this church. I supposed that you had likely sent the same article to Brother Spicer, as it related so much to the missionary work, but learning just recently that he has received no copy, I shall hand him mine and it will be circulated where we hope it will do good.

We have been greatly perplexed to know our duty in reference to Australia. I think you will appreciate the fact that the most of our competent help has already left this country, and yet I do not think there is any desire to build up the work here as against the foreign fields. I hope the Lord is leading out our minds in this direction and enlarging our views of the work. You know, I suppose, that we offered to the brethren in Australia the choice between elders Corliss, Fifield, Porter and Colcord. They cabled, choosing Colcord and Porter; but in the meantime, at the New England camp-meeting, it was evident that Elder Porter could not stand the strain of the work. He almost broke down again there and was threatened with a recurrence of the same trouble which he had at the General Conference. We did not, therefore, deem it advisable for him to go, and have been in great perplexity to know what to do. We have considered Elder Corliss again and again. You know, I suppose, that he went to Australia once and returned without instructions from the Conference, and that he demanded of the Conference that they should pay his travelling expenses in returning, which were very heavy. This has finally been done under protest, and now the brethren are very slow to have the same thing repeated. But, after considering it, hour after hour at different times, we voted yesterday to invite him to go to Australia on the November boat. I think he will doubtless do this, as he has been anxious to go all the time. Brother Colcord will go on the same boat. I certainly hope that this additional help will prove of service in the Australian work.

~~get~~ Elder Olsen will be with you soon and will be able to ~~get~~ a clearer view of the situation and to understand the needs better than it is possible for us to do at this distance. On his return to America, after this extended visit to different fields in other parts of the world, I am sure that we shall be able to plan the work more understandingly. I can see that his mind is being drawn out to an extension of the work in other fields, and I believe this is right.

I received, this week, the letters which you sent me by the last mail. One was in your own handwriting and the other was typewritten. The typewritten letter, consisted of five pages, but the second page was not enclosed. I have regretted this very

much as it seems to make such a break in the matter to render it difficult to understand all of it. But I have tried to get the best view of it possible.

I wish to say that the reproof given us in reference to our games, and the spirit which was in the work last year, is timely and accepted. The evening after your letters arrived, I had a special meeting of the Faculty and read these things to them. The next morning I talked with the whole school about it and read such extracts as seemed proper to present. I also stated our view of the whole matter and that we accepted the reproof and purposed to be guided by it. A good spirit attended the words and I think there is a sentiment in the College to act in harmony with the instruction. A match game of football had already been announced for to-day; but it was given up at once, with an excellent spirit, and we have decided to have no more match games of any kind on the grounds. Our recreation will be planned in such a way as to give the physical benefit desired without arousing up a spirit of contest, and without having it on the basis of athletic sports. We had already seen the evil of these things sufficiently to decide not to have any such games with the High School students, but had planned to permit games with those at the Sanitarium and the Review office; but since the receipt of your letters, we have decided to drop the whole thing. I am sure we shall be better off for doing so.

I have felt, personally, very much pained over this matter and do feel greatly grieved that what has been done here has made the work harder in other fields. We can only trust in the forgiveness of God and pray for more grace and wisdom that the work which he has intrusted to us may be done in harmony with his will. We are thankful that when we do make mistakes, he, in his goodness, sends us reproof to put us right again.

I hardly know what to say about the Caro boys and what you write of Sister Caro's views in this matter. I know that all has not been done that might have been done to help the younger boy, and I fear that any attempt on my part to state matters as they appear to us, may be interpreted as a justification of our neglect, and yet I feel that if possible, you ought to know the circumstances. I have feared that Sister Caro did not get the best view of matters here. While I have the utmost confidence in Edgar Caro's good intentions, I think he is some times led into extreme views of matters and does not always act from the best standpoint. He did not seem to take that interest in his brother's case which we think he ought to have done, and I fear blames the College for results which he and we together ought to have co-operated to prevent.

When he came to me last summer and suggested the plan of having Eric go with him to Ann Arbor, I approved of it at once, and the special reason for my doing so was that I thought Eric Caro ought to be separated from the other New Zealand young men. I took special pains to prevent anyone else going with him so that he might be with his brother alone. Others who knew the circumstances, felt in the same way that I did, and I am convinced now that it was a wise move. At the same time, I do not think that the others ought to go there. Maui Pomare received a letter from

Sister Caro, by the last mail, requesting him to go to Ann Arbor, and he has come to me with it in considerable trouble. She seems to understand that he is at the Sanitarium; but after consultation with Doctor Kellogg, it has seemed to both of us that he ought to go to the College for a year, and he is now living with us. He is well settled in his work, likes the work, and is doing well. He is taking up Bible study and in connection with it such other work as is necessary to prepare him for his medical course. I fear that it will be a great mistake to take him away from the College. Sister Caro has written Edgar about it, and since Pomare read extracts from ~~Edgar's~~ letter to him, I have written Edgar Caro also. I do not want to give any advice contrary to Sister Caro's wishes; but I am sure she does not properly understand the situation. There is an entirely different spirit in the school this year from what we had last year, and I am confident that the work will be done on a better basis. I should certainly feel that it was time for me to disconnect with this branch of the work and to leave it in other hands, if it has come to that point that the College is not a proper place to educate young men and young women for the work. I hope God will give us wisdom to conduct the work in harmony with his will, that his purpose in the establishment of the school may be fully met.

I would like to make a plain statement further concerning the diet question at the College. We have had very much difficulty over this matter, and I can understand, very well, the nature of the reports which have been sent to New Zealand about this question. From some experiences which we have had here, I can readily see just what ~~the~~ impression would be given to those at home. I know there has been ground for criticism in this matter; but I think in this, as in some other things, extreme views have been taken, sometimes bordering on fanaticism.

I will tell you of our experience this year in trying to have the diet on such a basis as would give no just ground for criticism. I arranged last Spring with Doctor Kellogg to furnish us a cook, who had had full training at the Sanitarium, and told him that we would leave it with such a cook to arrange bills of fare and to plan everything on the very best hygienic basis. He sent us a cook who was recommended as one of the best they had at the Sanitarium. After a trial of four or five days, we had to dispense with her services, and we had the poorest food during that time that we have had in the College since I have been here. Another cook was furnished and he did well; but on account of previous engagements was unwilling to stay. A third one was then furnished. He had not had much practical experience, and the lady who has charge of the Sanitarium cooking school came over to assist him. Both of them together could not manage the work, and we had to dispense with their services and got along nearly a week without any cook, doing the work as best we could. At the Lansing camp-meeting, I was pleased with the cooking at the dining stand and on investigation, we found that the brother who did the work was one of long experience in cooking, and one who had taken the full course at the Sanitarium, with reference to going on the "Pitcairn" as their cook. Circumstances prevented his going, and so he has been at work in other places since. We arranged for him

Mrs. E. G. W. 4.

10-5-93

to come here at once and she is now doing our cooking.

You will see that we have had a serious experience in this matter, and it seems to me that there must be some lack in the training of cooks at the Sanitarium. They seem to be impractical in their ideas. They are full of theories of science and talk learnedly about the matter; but those who have been sent to us have been utterly unable to do the practical work. I shall talk with Doctor Kellogg about this matter and hope it may be in some measure remedied. Our purpose is to follow out the light in this matter of healthful living, and I hope things are on such a basis now as will enable us to do so.

I do not desire in any way to justify anything which we have done or make any excuses for neglect in any direction; but I thought I would like to have you know, as far as I can state in a letter, something of the situation and the experiences through which we have passed.

The burden of the work rests quite heavily upon some of us here now. With Elder Olsen out of the country, with Brother White and yourself in New Zealand, and others upon whom we have depended for counsel either absent from the country or in other parts of the field here, we are often weighed down by the cares and perplexities connected with the work.

It seems to me clear that we have come into troublous times. The work which was neglected under more favorable circumstances must now be done under trying circumstances. A financial crisis is upon us in this country, and in some parts of the United States it is almost impossible to get hold of any money; yet we can not think of narrowing down the work. Everything calls upon us to enlarge our plans and to seek God for the help which he alone can give in opening up the way for means to come into the treasury with which to carry forward the work.

Can you give us any counsel as to what we ought to do about our school work here? According to the counsel which you have already given us, we have evidently done too much enlarging already. What shall we do for the future? With the added room in the College which we have this year, we shall still be crowded. Our brethren and sisters are getting roused up to the importance of having their children educated in our own schools, and they are either sending them in or coming here to educate them, and the Bible School which opens next week will be largely attended also. Ought we to establish more schools in other places, or can we tell the people that we can not provide for the education of their children? We desire to know the mind of the Lord and to follow it in these things.

My health has been quite good, although I often become very weary in the work.

I have just returned from the Michigan camp-meeting. It was the largest gathering ever held among Seventh-day Adventists, there being over 525 tents pitched. The large pavilion could not hold all who were encamped upon the ground. The Spirit of the Lord was present in power, and the people received a great blessing. Brother Jones was especially led out in a new line of thought which is of special value for us at this time. Yesterday he began the same series of study in the College so that all students and teach-

Mrs. E.G.W.5.

10-5-93  
ers may have the advantage of what the Lord has opened up to him. We hope for excellent results.

Mrs. Prescott and the baby are both well. We had a tent at the camp-ground and they were there all the time.

Our schools have all opened now and the prospect is quite good. South Lancaster is already so nearly full that they have given public notice to students not to come without making previous arrangements, as they may not be able to receive them. We have a large and constantly growing attendance. Union College is about the same as last year. Walla Walla College has nearly as many as last year, although times are extremely hard with them. At Healdsburg I understand there is quite a large decrease in the attendance. The Sanitarium buildings at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, are now occupied with the school. The attendance is small, as yet, there being less than 50; but the prospect with them is encouraging and all connected with the work are hopeful. There are other openings in this country for schools and we expect to start one in Georgia and one in Texas within two or three months.

I need not write you anything about Elder Olsen's work as he will soon be with you to report for himself. He can also give you a better view of things in this country than I can possibly write. I hope such plans may be laid during his visit with you as will result in a great extension of the work everywhere.

Be assured that you have our sympathy and prayers in your work, and I hope the Lord will show us how to co-operate with you as we ought that your labors may not be in vain.

I shall be glad to receive further matter from you, as you suggest in your last letter.

With kind regards and best wishes, I remain,  
Yours in Christian love,

T

*W. W. Prescott*

Since dictating the above, I have received a letter from Edgar Caro; and by the way, you did not enclose a copy of your letter to the Caro boys as you spoke of doing. But Edgar writes me that his mother desires that he should arrange to have Mr. Pomare attend the High School at Ann Arbor, and says, "She asked me to do this, following Sister White's advice." But he also says, in reply to a letter which I wrote him on the subject, "I feel confident that he will do well in either place, and shall leave it with him to decide." The young man has been to see me again this morning and is very averse to going. I told him frankly that according to my best judgment he ought to remain here, but that I did not wish him to go contrary to Sister Caro's wishes. He feels in this same way, but fears for the result if he goes. I can myself see no reason why a young man should be sent from New Zealand to attend one of our High Schools in this country. He could secure equally good advantages in New Zealand. If it is left to him to decide, he will probably remain here. I hope it may all turn out for the best in some way. We began our afternoon Bible studies in the College by Elder Jones, yesterday and the first session was a very valuable one. Brother Pomare spoke of the fact that he would miss all such opportunities if he should withdraw from the College. I can only leave the matter where it is, hoping that the right

NY

thing may be done.

W.W.P.