

Percy House School, High Street, Deal, England, Sept. 12th, 1898.

Mrs. Ellen G. White,

Cooranbong, New South Wales, Australia,

Dear Sister White:-

For several months I have been looking for a letter from you, but remembering what an amount of writing you have to do, I have known that there was a good reason for my not hearing from you. Feeling sure, however, that you would like to know how the work is prospering in this country, I thought I would take a little time to write you concerning it.

I hardly know where to begin, but I think I will tell you first of our general meetings. For the first time in the history of the work in Great Britain we have made the effort to bring the believers together and to have a genuine general meeting. We decided to have one in Ireland and one in England this season. The one for Ireland was held in Belfast June 24 to July 3 and was attended by Eld. Waggoner and myself. At that time there were 75 or 80 sabbath-keepers in Ireland and fully three fourths of them were at the meeting. The Lord gave us much blessing and all were greatly encouraged and strengthened and encouraged. Several very fine people (one family quite wealthy), who became interested in the truth during the meeting, have since fully identified themselves with it, and the work there has taken a fresh start. If we only had the right kind of labourers to send to that field, we should see a much greater work accomplished.

Immediately after the Belfast meeting Eld. Waggoner and I went to Hamburg to attend the first session of the European Union Conference. A good proportion of the time was given to Bible study and we received much light from the word.

The general meeting for England was held at Bath July 29 to August 7. During the six weeks just previous to this time nearly every church and company was visited, in addition to all the other effort which had been put forth to get the people out to the meeting. The Lord favoured us in every way. We had a beautiful place for pitching the large tent in which the meetings were held, just in the edge of the town, and there were railway excursions from various places which seemed to be planned with reference to our gathering. Then the Lord moved upon the hearts of a good number to assist those who otherwise would not have been able to come, and we were very thankful to see over three hundred at the first meeting. This number was increased to over three hundred and twenty-five. But it was not simply for the number in attendance that we were thankful. We had a most excellent meeting from beginning to end. The Lord's presence was continually with us and the light from his word shone out clearly. There was also a good attendance from the town and many heard the truth for the first time. Those in attendance took apartments in various places in the town, instead of

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living in tents, and thus by personal contact with the people we were able to talk of the truth and get them to the meetings. We lived with some very nice people and they became deeply interested, attending the meetings and talking with us about the truth. We shall hope to follow it up in some way with them. I sent you last week a copy of our monthly paper, The Missionary Worker, which will give you a full report of the meeting and some other items of interest about the work here. You will see from that report that we have formed ourselves into a conference <sup>and</sup> that it was decided to have a general meeting each year after this.

In addition to our usual methods of reaching the people, we have taken up a new line this Summer. It seemed to us that while the people were at the sea-side, with more leisure and no church of their own to hold them, it would be a good plan to go to them with the gospel message, so we made arrangements to come to this place, which is one of the numerous resorts on the south coast. Our party consists of Eld. Waggoner and his family; Bro. and Sister Champness; my sister and her daughter (her daughter is the one who was with us in Australia); Bro. Washburn, Meredith, and Harris; and my own family. We took a large house, which is used for a private school, where we could all live together and provide for ourselves, thus saving expense, and we have the school room for use as a meeting room. We have a portable organ, a special portable street light, and a portable platform. A male quartette assists in the singing and I play a cornet. We select the best available places, where there are the most people, light our lamp, and then begin singing. Sometimes it takes a little time to gather a congregation but at other times we may have a hundred people about us before we have finished the first hymn. We have no set form of service but leave it all open for singing or speaking or praying, as any one may be led. Our congregations have numbered from one hundred to four and possibly five hundred, and what has been most encouraging to us is that instead of being simply a moving throng, some of whom might stop for a few minutes, a large proportion of our largest congregations have remained almost throughout the meeting, which would continue for an hour and a half and sometimes even longer. The Lord has blessed in these meetings in a most marked manner. We have had cases of conversions right at the meeting of which we have known, and we have heard of many who have been blessed. When we first came here the people were a little shy of us, and some who knew that we were sabbath-keepers were especially wary of us, but now those same persons are very friendly, come to our meetings regularly, and express regret that our mission is to close so soon. Yesterday afternoon one of these leading families invited us to their home for a Bible reading and we had a good time with them. I cannot tell you of the many ways in which we have seen the Lord's working, but we are so thoroughly convinced that this is a profitable way in which to spend the summer months, aside from our

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general meetings and following them up, that we are already planning to visit several places in this same way next season, if the Lord spares us to the work. The people here are already asking us if we shall not come here again another season.

I do not know whether you will recall a conversation which I had with you at the Hobart camp-meeting with reference to open air work. It made a deep impression upon my mind and I have thought of it and spoken of it many times since. You said: I have seen our brethren speaking to large congregations in halls, in tents, and in the open air; and I do not think that we shall leave all the open air work to the Salvation Army. This is certainly being fulfilled here. I might say however that our meetings are very different in character from those conducted by the Salvation Army and the people recognize this difference. In fact some who have had much successful experience in such work say that these are the most successful open air meetings which they have seen for years. We know that this is all of the Lord and we take no credit to ourselves. We came here with much fear and trembling, not knowing what sort of an experience we should have, and yet with a confidence that the Lord was leading us, and he has worked in a remarkable way. Besides our ordinary and private worship, we have made it a practice to have a special season of prayer before going out to each meeting, and we have realized that the Lord has heard and answered our prayers for help and guidance. We are sure that our experience here will have a marked effect upon our work in the future. We are now planning to go to Swansea, a good town in Wales, the first of October, with the same force and there to combine open air work and hall work. We think that this can be done for another month, if the weather is as favourable for it as last year. I might add that we have held open air meetings in the various parts of London during nearly the whole of the present Summer and that our other companies are beginning to do the same.

I have been glad to hear of the success of the work in Australia during the past season and often felt as though I would like to be with you again in the work. It seemed to us that the meetings at Stanmore and Balaclava were abundantly successful. The camp-meetings seem to be the best way to reach the people there, but the climate here makes it unfavourable, as we cannot depend upon the weather from day to day. It has been wonderfully in our favor here, however, and we have held a meeting every evening except one.

I should be glad to have a letter from you when you may have the time to write, and should be glad to hear further from the work there.

Please give our kind regards to all the friends.

Yours in Christian love,

53 Mercer Road,  
London N.  
England.

H. H. Prescott,