

*John P. Lane
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W. W. Prescott

On Board S. S. Nineveh,
En Route from Cape Town to London,
Ninth Day Out, Nov. 4th, 1895.

Eld. S. N. Haskell,
16 Best Street, North Fitzroy,
Victoria, Australia,

Dear Brother Haskell:-

I am sorry that I have not been able to write you since you left us, but you may be able to guess the reason. I hoped to see you again on our return from Wellington but found that your boat came in early and that you came very near being left behind. We often spoke of you during the time of your voyage and wondered how you were getting on, and we could tell when it was time for you to reach Melbourne and then thought of you as going to Adelaide to attend the camp-meeting. We shall be glad to hear from you and to learn of your experiences since we last saw you.

You knew of the plans for the meetings in Cape Town and I have sent you outlines of some of the addresses, so that you know about the lines followed in the meetings. Taking it altogether we thought we had a good attendance throughout. At some of the meetings there were 500 or 700 and on some of the week nights there would not be more than 200, but the interest was good throughout and many of the same persons attended constantly. About 8000 of each of the outlines were distributed by the workers and they found many who were interested from reading who could not attend the meetings. They were beginning to appoint Bible readings with different ones at the time I left and were intending to follow up the interest with meetings in the Roeland Street hall and by house to house work. Bro. Edmed, Bro. Richardson and wife, and Sister Commis were to devote their time to this work while a good number of the young people were to canvass in Cape Town and the suburbs under the direction of Sister Hurd. I shall wait with interest to hear of the results of this work and shall hope that, if it is well followed up, there may be a good number who will accept the truth. Mr. Barrows, whom you will remember, attended the meetings quite regularly and was deeply interested. At his invitation I called on him and we had a very satisfactory talk together. I believe he will obey soon. Many of our own people seemed to be helped by the meetings in town, in some ways more than by the work at Claremont. As we presented the evidences of the near coming of the Lord it seemed to take a strong hold upon them and the Wassels brothers talked quite freely about it. I hope the results will be permanent with them.

Everything in the conference passed off quietly and rather curiously.

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Eld. Robinson opened the way for them to have a change in administration and after due consultation it was decided to send a cable to America to ask for Eld. Porter to come. This was done but the brethren there did not see their way clear to have him come and so it was unanimously decided to elect Eld. Robinson again with the distinct understanding, openly talked in the conference that the General Conference would be likely to suggest a change at its next session. The good blessing of the Lord which we had received in the study of the Bible made all these things much easier. I left the brethren of good courage and very hopeful for the future of the work. The conference did not grant any papers to Br. N. P. J. D. Wessels or Scholtz and they felt rather bad about it at the first, but we had a meeting together where the whole matter was plainly talked over and I think they felt better after that.

You will be interested to know that Prof. Elffers is to leave the school at the close of the present year and will hereafter devote one half of his time to the work, mainly in translating at the present. I have been asked to send them a principal to conduct the school as far as possible on the lines which I set forth in my talks before you left. I believe this will be a good thing for the school and for the work in general and for Prof. Elffers as well. He accepted the suggestion in a good spirit and will enter heartily into the duties laid before him. The conference voted to donate the translation of Great Controversy Vol. 2 to the General Conference with the request that it be published at once, and he will do that translating first.

Bro. Thompson and wife are with us on their way back to America. Under all the circumstances this seemed to be the best thing for them to do. Her health would not permit them to go further north into Natal or the Transvaal and it did not seem to me to be best for them to remain at the Cape any longer. They pay their own expenses in returning. Erban Robinson is also with us, going to Battle Creek to prepare for medical missionary work. This gives us a very pleasant company. Since the first day out the weather has been quite favorable and we are having a very comfortable time. We ought to reach London two weeks from tomorrow.

I hope you will find the time to write me of your experiences and how you find the work in Australia. Address me at 50 Manchester Street, Battle Creek, Michigan, U. S. A.

With kind regards and best wishes,

Yours faithfully in the work,

A. H. Prescott