

Battle Creek, Mich., August 10, 1893.

Eld. W.C. White,
14 & 16 Best St.,
N. Fitzroy, Melbourne, Australia.

Dear Brother:-

I have just received your letter of July 6, enclosing a copy of the minutes of two of your conference meetings, and also a copy of your letter to Bro. Lacy. You will be glad to learn that Bro. Lacy is already in Battle Creek, and that I have planned his work with reference to completing our classical course. This will require two years of regular work, with extra work during the vacations. His plan was to spend the most of his time this Summer in study, and I suppose he has followed it out. I have been east for about a month, returning yesterday, and have not seen him since my return.

I have felt for a year or two that he ought to come to Battle Creek before returning to Australia, but you can readily understand the reason why I did not feel clear in urging this matter. I found him at the Oakland camp-meeting in May, and learned of his situation, and that he had severed his connection with the Healdsburg College with the expectation of going immediately to Australia. I thought the way was clear for him to come east if he desired to do so, and, after talking with Eld. Olsen, I suggested the plan to him. He was very glad to accept the suggestion, and desires to remain long enough to complete our classical course.

It seems to me that the young man has some ability, and also ~~some~~ ^{such} interest in the work, that would warrant his receiving a thorough preparation before returning to his home field.

I learn by a letter from Eld. Rosseau that arrangements have been made with Sr. Burnham, formerly of the Echo Office, to instruct in the English department, and I hope this plan will be so satisfactory that you will not be disappointed in not having Bro. Lacy with you during the present ~~time~~.

I suppose you know by this time, or will learn soon, that Eld. Olsen sailed from New York July 12 with the expectation of being absent from three to nine months. The other members of the Conference Committee are scattered in the different districts and I am the only one now left in Battle Creek.

In the absence of Eld. Olsen and others with whom I always confer about these matters, I can only give you my individual opinion about the questions raised in your letter. I can see that it would be a very great advantage to you to have someone of experience in college work to suggest plans, and to have charge of the erection of your buildings; and, if I remember correctly, we have spoken in the Committee of the advisability of

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Bro. Sisely going to Australia and spending two or three years, or perhaps to locate there permanently; but, just at present he is fully occupied with demands on his services here. He has charge of building the Orphans' Home and the new dormitory for the Sanitarium, both of which are now in process of erection; he has also in charge the addition to the College, which we hope to complete by the middle of September. He has prepared, or is preparing the plans for the Sanitarium in So. Africa, and for the Jas. White Memorial Home, besides other odd jobs in preparing plans for church buildings, etc.

He is now one of the elders of the Battle Creek Church, and is taking interest in the church missionary work which is being pushed with more than usual vigor just now.

I know he could be of much help to you there, not only with reference to the erection of your College buildings, but in general matters where experience and good counsel are valuable. It would perhaps be best for me to talk the matter over with him, and thus learn whether Bro. Olsen has mentioned the subject to him, and what his own view of the matter would be.

I am glad to learn of the good attendance the present term, and I am interested in the plans which you suggest for the future. Not being acquainted with the habits and customs of the country, and not understanding fully your seasons, all of which are so different from the conditions in America, I do not know that I can give you any counsel that will be of value.

It seems to me, however from the view which you give of the situation, that the plan to have your next vacation a short one and to have the third year begin in April and close in September and then hold no further session till you could occupy your own buildings, is a wise one. It might, as you suggest, prevent some from attending the third year on account of being deprived of the usual time for earning means with which to pay expenses. But, on the other hand, it will give them an unusual opportunity to secure sufficient means for attending one or two years or more, after you open again.

It is certainly desirable to have a department for younger children in connection with the school, and I think it would be wise for you plan for this in your new building. As families move in to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the school, there will always be younger members of the family who ought to attend a school of the same character where they could have the advantage of being under the care of Christian teachers and of having regular instruction in the Bible.

It is really quite a relief to me to learn that it is possible to get along another year without calling Prof. Caviness from America. We are at present greatly embarrassed in our efforts to find proper persons to direct the work. The demands have been so great in the rapid growth of the school work in this country, as well as in the sending to foreign fields, that we hardly

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know what to do for ourselves next year.

In looking the matter over a month ago, we concluded to ask Prof. Caviness to come to Battle Creek, so that I should be largely relieved of the details of college work; but, after conferring with the brethren in New England we found the situation there to be such, and their desire so strong to retain Prof. Caviness that I decided to relinquish this plan and try to get along without his help.

Prof. Bland who had charge of the Office work last year, goes to Mt. Vernon, to take charge of the school there, and this leaves me without any experienced help.

I do not know of anyone else in this country who combines so many qualifications that would seem to fit one for the demands of the work in Australia, as Prof. Caviness. It is true, as you suggest that some of the peculiarities which are common to Americans, are specially marked in him; but, he is a man of good education, long experience, sound judgment, and always safe in his plans and work. While he may be a little too conservative sometimes, yet it is hardly safe to send to a distant field to have full charge of such a line of work, one who is likely to adopt hastily considered plans, or to make ill-advised moves.

At the same time, there are some young men now growing up in the work who, in the course of a short time, would perhaps be equally as strong, and in whom these special peculiarities may not be so marked. It may be that after a year or two we should see the way clear to recommend someone else who could be spared from this country without making some serious break in our work, and who might possibly meet the situation there just as well as Prof. Caviness.

When I left the city about a month ago, Bro. and Sr. Thorpe were still at the Sanitarium, and I suppose they are there now. They have been preparing for the work in Australia, with the understanding that they were likely to be called to that field; but, I presume it would be no serious disappointment to them if work should be suggested in this country. I believe it to be an excellent plan to have all who are connected with the school work persons who have had a good general education, and even if Bro. and Sr. Thorpe should go to Australia, it might be possible that they could be used in connection with a health bakery and the general health work instead of in connection with the school.

I have no personal acquaintance with Bro. and Sr. Semons and so cannot say anything as to their fitness for the place.

I can confer with Dr. Kellogg, and can learn from him whether Sr. S. is unfitted for the work by reason of her experience with the crazy woman. I know nothing about this matter, and had learned nothing of it until you had mentioned it in your letter.

Unless I hear from some of you to the contrary by early mail, I shall take it for granted that you have decided to follow the plan which you recommend for your third year's work, with

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the expectation of re-organizing the faculty quite fully when you open your first term in the new building. This would give us nearly two years in which to plan for a corps of workers and to give some special training to those who needed it as the work would require.

When I was at the Oakland camp-meeting, Eld. Olsen and myself met with the members of the Healdsburg College Board, and had a somewhat frank talk with them over the situation. I think we have a better understanding of matters now than before. It seems that for two or three years they have felt as though we took no interest in their affairs, while on the other hand, as I told them, I had the impression that they did not desire any interference. I have had the impression that these Californians had a good opinion of their own ability to manage their affairs without special suggestion from outside; and, as I had all I could do to meet the demands of the work elsewhere, I have paid a very little attention to the work at Healdsburg.

^{to} After our consultation at Oakland, I had decided to try ~~and~~ spend several weeks with them next year, with a view of a re-organization of the school at the opening of the Fall ~~term~~ term in 1894; but, at present it looks doubtful whether I shall be able to carry out this plan. We have sent away so much of our experienced help at Battle Creek, that it now seems to be about as needy a field as we have. It is possible, however, that I may be able to do something for Healdsburg by correspondence, even though I do not spend a very long time there.

Since my return from New England, I have read a copy of that portion of Eld. Olsen's letter to you, relating to workers for the Australian field, and I suppose we shall receive a cablegram from you not later than the first of September, so that we shall know what action to take.

It seems to me that Eld. Olsen has given you a very fair statement of the situation with an unprejudiced estimate of the fitness of the several workers whose names are suggested. As soon as we receive your cablegram, we shall arrange to send the worker or workers whom you choose just as soon as ~~they~~ they can consistently leave this country.

I ~~leave~~ leave to-day for the Indiana camp-meeting and shall also attend the meetings in Ohio, Illinois and the Mich. State-meeting. I may possibly go to the Nn. Mich. meeting if I can see my way clear to do so.

The financial outlook in this country is far from hopeful. Men of long business experience say it seems more like the panic of 1857 than anything which they have known since that time. Of course, you know from your experience in Australia, how much this is likely to effect the general work. I fear that it may tend to decrease the attendance at our various schools although, so far as I have learned the outlook seems to be rather favorable.

Congress convened in extra session last Monday, but there

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is much room for doubt as to whether they will be able to relieve the situation any.

For myself, I expect that these hard times will grow harder as time advances, and that we shall indeed see "men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming upon the earth". If our people take the right view of these matters it ought to stimulate their zeal for the work.

Of course, I have not felt called upon to write you at any length upon the general work in this country, as I know that Eld. Olsen is in constant correspondence with you, and is able to bring these matters before you in better shape than I can. I am, however, interested in all the work, and shall be glad to hear from you at any time.

With kind regards to yourself and to all the laborers, and best wishes for the continued prosperity of the work, I remain,

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Yours very truly,

H. H. Prescott.