

71.11.95

Union College, Kenilworth, Near Cape Town, South Africa,  
September 5th, 1895.

Eld. W. C. White,

Cooranbong, New South Wales:-

*Dear Bro. White:-*

Your welcome letter of July 2nd reached me a month ago and I fully intended to reply sooner but one thing after another has come along to occupy my time and so it has been deferred. I have set apart this evening for this long neglected duty and privilege. I knew that you would be hearing from us, as I have written your mother from time to time.

I was interested in all that you wrote of the work and of the different workers, and as their names were mentioned I could see their faces just as I saw them when with you. In her last letter your mother spoke of the meeting at the mill, of the frank position taken by Bro. Hare and of the success in raising funds. When we consider the poverty of the brethren there I am sure that they did according to their ability. I am glad that Bro. Haskell has been able to secure the thousand pounds and I hope that you will now be able to proceed with the erection of some suitable buildings in which to carry forward the actual school work. I trust that plans will be so laid that with what money is now in sight a school can be started. I believe this will assist more than anything else in raising further funds, if the brethren can know that a school is in actual operation. I should greatly enjoy being with you in this work and to see in some degree at least the realization of what we talked about and prayed about when I was in Australia. I shall wish to hear how this work goes and what the outlook is for a school. I also desire to know whether you really wish Eld. Rousseau to return to Australia. I hope you will not forget to write me of this in your next letter, as I shall doubtless have that question to meet at the conference. I do not have anyone now in mind whom I can especially recommend for the place but do not know what may open up on my return to America. I think Eld. Rousseau has done well under all the circumstances and have no special burden to urge a change, but I would like to be prepared for any suggestion that may be made by knowing your mind in the matter.

It did me good to read what Eld. Wilson wrote you concerning Eld. Daniells and his labors in Tasmania. I have had some good letters from Eld. D. since reaching here and could see that he was having a growing experience in a knowledge of the word and its power. This encourages me greatly. It will put new life into all his work and the conference will prosper spiritually. I have read with interest of some of their recent experiences as set forth in the Gleaner and in their private letters. Surely the Lord is blessing them and I am thankful for it. You can well understand that I take more of a personal interest in affairs in Australia since spending nearly a year there and I am constantly praying that the Lord will prosper you all in your efforts to advance his cause.

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I have read and re-read with great care all that your mother has written about the situation in America and at times I have felt much depressed over it. I see from your letter and from her recent letters both to me and to Eld. Haskell that, unless the Lord gives special light in that direction, there is no hope that either of you will attend the next General Conference. Of course if that is the will of the Lord, that is just the way I want it to be, but it would be very much in accord with my feelings to have you both there. I have talked some with Bro. Haskell about going but he says there will be a crisis and he prefers to be somewhere else. Your mother writes that I must certainly be there, and this I am planning to do, but at the same time she says that matters are in such a condition that she does not see that either she or you can help them out. Then what do you think will be done by the rest of us? It is a terrible thing to me when the Lord tells us that his voice is no longer heard through the committees and Boards appointed by the General Conference to direct the work, and I do not know which way to turn. I can only hope in God and earnestly seek him for his guidance that I may personally hear his voice and walk in his ways. I dread returning to America, not because I am having an easy time and like to be away from home and all broken up, but because it seems to me that there is a terrible conflict ahead. But the Lord is able to care for his work and for all those who put their trust in him and so I shall go forward in this confidence. I have felt very sorry for Eld. Olsen and have prayed much for him. I have had hardly anything from him lately and have feared that he might be crushed under a sense of the situation. We have certainly entered upon the shaking time and we may look now for developments which will fill our souls with sorrow, as well as for such experiences as will increase our faith and hope in God.

You may be interested to know how we are getting on here. I find a different situation from what I left in Australia. There has hardly been a day since I reached here that my mind has not been burdened over the condition of things. I sent you a copy of my letter to the F. M. Board which would tell you of my trip through the colonies. Aside from that I have spent my time here at the Cape. We are now in the midst of our Bible School which has been in session three weeks. I usually occupy two, and sometimes three, hours per day and Eld. Haskell does the most of the remainder of the work. The other brethren have tried it some but they do not seem to be able to bring in much light and we have not called upon them much. The Lord has blessed in the studies and personally I have received much help, and I think this is true of many in the class, and yet there is a much greater work to be accomplished than we have yet seen done. I have borne a very straight, plain, testimony to them in all my work for the church and I think it is having some effect but a mould has been put upon things for years which cannot be

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changed in a day. I wrote Eld. Olsen over two months ago that there should be a change in the administration here, as well as a change in some of the laborers, and I have since suggested the propriety of having a member of the General Conference Committee located in South Africa who should superintend the development of the work in the General Conference territory, and for a time act as president of this conference. Something must be done at once, or from any human standpoint the work will go down. I neither criticise nor blame anyone but these are the facts as I see them.

I have felt anxious to do something to give the message to those here who have not heard it for years but the way has not seemed to be open for me to undertake what we did in Australia in the way of speaking in the large halls. However, we are planning a movement now and I am praying that the Lord will give us success. During the month of October we shall make a special effort to reach the people of Cape Town. We contemplate hiring a hall at the first which will seat upwards of 1000, the largest hall in the city, and then carrying on the work as the Lord may open the way. We shall do some thorough advertising in the city and suburbs and if all the people do not know of the meetings it will not be our fault. In addition to other ways, posters, calico signs, &c, our workers will visit the people at their homes and give them a personal invitation. I made the matter the subject of my discourse this morning and sought earnestly to impress upon the church what it meant in the way of personal consecration in order to open the way for the Lord to work and give us success. I cannot rest satisfied with the idea of laboring for our own people only and it will be a great encouragement to me if a move can be made which will result in bringing out a good company of earnest believers in the message. I hope you will pray for us.

I am having a good time in presenting the right principles of education in connection with the Bible School and am speaking two evenings each week upon this subject. The principles which I am presenting are squarely contrary to the plans followed in this colony and if they are adopted it means a radical change in the school work. I do not know yet whether this will be done but there are some hopeful indications.

We have fully decided to leave here Nov 1st and have engaged passage on the Nineveh which will be here again at that time. I am glad that it so happens that we can have this boat again, as it is the best of the fleet and we liked it well. I ~~have~~ hope to be in Battle-Creek at least six weeks ~~before~~ before the time for the Conference. In order to do this I have given up any idea of visiting the continent and shall have only a few days in London.

Eld. Haskell is still here and seems to be quite undecided what to do. He had fully settled in his own mind to remain in this field for some time come, but the last letter from your mother to him which spoke so positive-

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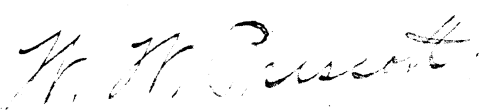
ly about seeing him soon in Australia has rather unsettled him again and I do not know what he may decide to do. I have told him that he need not hesitate to go so far as I am concerned, but if he thinks best to stay I shall be glad of his help here as long as I stay. If he remains he will go to some new field after the Bible School. I think he will probably send some definite word to your mother about it by this ~~next~~ mail.

I am sending by this same boat a letter to your mother but there are things in this letter which I have not written to her and I will ask you to let her see this.

Now I have written at some length and I must close. We think of you as living at the convent with your large family, including the twins. We hope you find it pleasant and comfortable. We ~~are~~<sup>send</sup> kind regards to all, not forgetting Bro. Tucker, our faithful postman. I hope you will find time to write me all about your work. We shall probably reach London about the 25th of Nov. and remain there about ten days, so you can tell when to send a letter to us there, and after that to Battle Creek (59 Manchester Street). Our London address is 451 Holloway Road, London N.

With kind regards and best wishes,

Yours faithfully in the work,



R. S. - September 8th.

Since I wrote the previous part of this letter Elm. Haskell has definitely decided to go to Australia and I think has already sent you a cable to that effect. He will go by the same boat which takes this letter. I have not urged him to stay here, as his mind seemed to be inclined toward going and I did not wish to try to persuade him to remain contrary to his own wishes. This will leave me pretty much alone in the work but I shall not worry about that. He has been here now much longer than I expected when I reached here. I hope he will have a comfortable journey to Australia and will be a blessing to the work there.

W. W. F.