

Mountain View, Cal., April 4, 1907.

Dear Mother:--

Since coming here the last time, after my talk with you, I have done much thinking. I will say right here that my greatest desire is to do right, and I want to know what that is. I have been praying earnestly for wisdom for some time, and I believe I shall have it.

I am now in a position where my future is not decided, and where much depends on the decision I shall make. I want it to be right. I am well on in years, and am nearly as old as father when he died. It is time I was now getting into some line and some locality where I can work and yet be free from the anxieties and the many burdens which I have carried in the past. I am where I want a place of refuge and rest where I can build up and get my head settled and my mind clear again. I now find it very hard to concentrate my mind onto anything. I have little energy or courage, or in fact hope. I know these things will come to me whenever I can get properly settled.

I hesitate about locating in Mountain View, for I fear that there will be things to chafe and annoy that I am not really in physical or mental condition to meet successfully. I distrust myself seriously. Hence I shall not move hastily in selecting a location. Emma has first claims on me. Her mother is recovering and may have a few more years to live. She has claims on Emma. She is expecting us to come to Boulder to live. She is lotting on this, and I hear is talking of little else. This appeals to me very strongly. It seems to me that our duty will be to either settle in Boulder, where she is, or to have her come to California if we move here. This question cannot be settled at once.

Now, there are other matters that are troubling me, and must be adjusted. You mentioned my feeling toward W.C. As you know, I have no diplomacy. I have always talked out just what I have felt. That is one of my greatest failings. It has led me into many difficulties. I have endeavored to overcome it, but not with the success that I desire. I think I am gaining, however.

I am heartily soory that I ever opened my lips in criticism of my brother, and such will never pass my lips again. I ask his forgiveness for everything of this kind in all my life. I am also sorry for strong and hard language I have used TO HIM at times. I realize I must overcome everything of this kind if I am ever saved in the kingdom of God.

There are things I cannot put in writing. There are things that have been bitterer to me than the loss of everything I possess. I do not suppose I will be understood when I mention them, but do so I must at this time. For years he has felt at liberty to criticise my work, and take a stand against it before ~~others~~ others in his official capacity. There is no need to go into particulars, but it is generally understood that this is the case, as well as it is that I have resented it, and have had feelings against him because of it. Mother, I do not believe God ever called him to any such work. And so long as this exists, I see no hope of harmony between us, so far as that goes, but there will never a word pass my lips to others in the future. I feel that I must say this much, but the less said the better. I love my brother in every social capacity. I respect his ability in many lines of his work. He is a much stronger man than I am in various ways. But when he comes as he did to Nashville a year ago last January, and without a word of council to me from you, joins in the

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~~joins in the work~~ to oust me from a work I had given my life to build up, it does not seem to me to be appropriate. I cannot affiliate with such a thing in him, and I never expect to. More, I am sure God never commissioned him to any such duty. And I am sorry to say, that so long as such things occur, I cannot see how it is possible for us to harmonize. But there is one thing I can do, I can refrain from taking the same position toward him and criticising him before others. This will do, God helping me. I can say no more.

One other point mentioned by W.C. I will speak of, and that is the position I took in my letter to Eld Daniells in regard to the purchase of the food plant. When W.C. mentioned it I was much surprised. I never for a moment questioned the propriety of my statement to Eld. Daniells as to the stand you took in my purchase of this property. I can see it was unwise to put the advice given me by you on the basis of the instruction concerning the location of R. & H. at Washington. It would have been much better if I had not said it. But mother, I never learned to discriminate in these things. I felt that in the Southern Missionary Society I represented an important branch of the work of the cause, and that this branch was as important as any other branch of the cause, whether Publishing Houses, Sanitariums, Schools, or what not. You were instructing and advising others right along that line, all were taking your instruction as of vital importance, and I DID THE SAME. Later you wrote that "time would prove that that move was for the best." Now I understand that your statements to me were merely personal advice. I am sorry I misunderstood it. But as God is my helper I put it right along the side of the instruction to Southerland and Magan in the location of a new school enterprise. They went contrary to their judgment and took the location recommended by you, and felt it was the only thing to do under the circumstances. I represented a branch of work "as far reaching as eternity" for the colored people of the South, and in doing this work I never considered my own interests separate from this work. Then you felt that the food plant would be needed by our people. In taking the food plant, and using it for the Missionary Society work, and ~~makingx~~ thus holding the plant for our people I felt that I was acting along the line of God's providence as seen and recognized and recommended by you. To now find that this is not the case comes to me as a shock, and, frankly, I do not know where I do stand. I am very sorry that I put forth this claim. But it has been as an article of faith and belief to me. I will try to be more discriminating in the future. I shall explain my mistake to Eld. Daniells. This is only right under the circumstances.

One more thing. I feel that I have not lived the health reform as I should. I have begun a reform on this, and will try to be a proper example in this respect.

Inclosed is a notification of registered letter which came here and I brought it up with me the last time, and forgot to give it to you.

I am boarding with the Cartridges in the Pub. House boarding house. I have a pleasant room, and they set a good table.

In much love, Your Son,

I expect to be at St Helena next Sunday or Monday, and these houses can spend only a day at St Helena

J. E. White