



May 17, 1908.

Edgefield, Tenn.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Mrs. E. G. White, and Eld. W. C. White,
Sanitarium, Cal.

Dear Mother and Brother:--

We have come to an absolute standstill in regard to the Food Factory proposition. Everything went well, until last Friday, the 15th. The new board met to organize and arrange for the work, and then came up a facer in the shape of adverse conditions at the bank holding the notes still due on the property. Mr. Sanford, from whom I purchased had put them in the bank as collateral for money loaned him. Mr. Sanford ^{went} ~~then~~ into the lumber business in Texas, and the financial panic has struck all the lumber interests of the south a hard blow, and lumber firms have lost heavily, and some of them have gone to the wall because of it. Mr. Sanford has suffered with the rest. So the bank feels that the property is what they must look to for its money on the obligation. They have written Sanford calling on him to take up this paper, and he has replied to get their money out of the property.

So, in the work of arranging for the new company to take the property, they desired to know what they could do in bank. The bank told them they must have the money right down or proceed to take the property. This has all been told in the letter to you by Eld. Irwin. This made the matter impossible to the committee., and unless something can be done they will not be able to go on with the deal.

But there is a more difficult condition than the loss of the property

embraced in the Food Factory. If they take this property and sell it up they cannot get more than half what it is indebted for. That is, it will not sell at auction for more than half of what I owe on it. This is because the property has a large value as a food factory, but a small value as a farm or home. Unless it is sold for a Food Factory it will not sell for much.

There is due the bank about \$2300.00. At auction it would not bring, in all probability, more than \$1300.00. Thus there will be a balance unpaid of about \$1000.00, and all the added expenses of the transaction. The law is such that they can then come back on all the property owned by Emma and me, and sell that too. They can take our home, my office, my book plates, and whatever we own, and sell them for a song, and slaughter us on all hands.

Last Friday night I had a night of sorrow and trouble and wakefulness, but at last concluded to throw off the burden, and suffer the loss of the Food Factory, and give my undivided attention to book work. I got relief from this over the Sabbath. But this morning I have looked into the situation, and find that one move against me in taking any piece of property like this Food Factory, will precipitate an attack on everything we possess. I am, therefore compelled to take up a fight for our life. If such a raid were to take place it would be ~~mx~~ absolute ruin to my prospects for years, and perhaps forever. God knows all about it, and we are seeking Him earnestly. We have been seeking Him all through this difficulty.

Now, to-morrow we shall make a desperate effort with bank to see just what can be done. There is about \$477.00 interest due on the property. We believe that if we could take this up, leaving only \$1750.00 of the principle due, that the bank would give reasonable time to take care of the rest, and

Mother and W.C. -3-

the Food Committee could have the opportunity to raise the necessary money to take care of it. But where is the \$477.00? I hope to be able to meet Eld. Irwin this evening and see what can possibly be done here. I cannot feel that God would be honored for me to go through such an experience as would come if I were crushed to earth because of the purchase of this Food Factory. More than this, it is pretty well understood that I did buy the property on the recommendation of mother, and you have acknowledged the same in your letter to Irwin at Washington. In a letter from mother written some time after the purchase of the property she said "Time will show that the move in going into the country was the right thing to do." Now, these may not be the exact words, but they do express the exact sentiment of the letter. And later from Washington she writes, "I have not changed my mind as to the advisability of ^{your} making the move into the country." This is also quoted from memory. Now, W.C., what will be the effect if the exactly opposite to all this comes true, and it results in absolute ruin. And that I lose all I had when I went there, and all I have put in since?

Within the past few months mother has written warning me against parting with the Food Factory property for a song. I was advised in this letter not to sell ^{unless} ~~where~~ it would bring me financial relief. She in the same paragraph told me to exercise "patience", and then added, "This is the message I am instructed to give you." All the things I have mentioned in this paragraph were found in a single paragraph of her letter. I cannot find the letter to-day, but there is a copy of it on file ^{at mother's office}. Now, how much of the paragraph was included ~~ix~~ as the instruction she was "instructed" to give me, I am not prepared to say. I HAVE TRIED to rely ^{implicitly} on ~~such~~ such statements as ~~the~~

these, and day by day Bro. Robert and I have sought the Lord together that He would fulfill His promises to us. As to the paragraph referred to, I am not ready to pick it over and say one part has been commissioned and the rest not. I have endeavored to be "patient" and let the Lord work, and at the same time I have done whatever I could to make the matter go.

Now, there is another feature to the situation. Mother DID advise me to go to the country, and ~~so~~ ^{she} DID advise me to buy the Food Plant. She DID tell me before witnesses that the Food Factory WOULD be needed in the work of the South. I DID buy the property as the result of this, believing in the depths of my heart that my instruction was as important and significant for me as it was to Sutherland and Magan when they bought the school farm. Twice since that time has mother reiterated in letters her confidence in the move. You have in your letter to Eld. Irwin acknowledged that these statements are practically true.

Eld. Irwin personally believes these statements as endorsed in your letter to him at Washington. He HAS read with faith and confidence the letter to Gen. Conf. in which you quote from Testimonies regarding Food Work in the South. He has acted up to this, and so does Eld. McVagh. But in doing so they realize that they are acting in opposition to the recommendation of the Gen. Conf. as written up by ELD. EVANS. ^{S.U. Conf.} The whole Committee put the two authorities side by side, and decided that the G.C. had not considered the weight of instruction regarding this food business in the South, and so on comparing the two they decided that they would follow the instruction from the Lord even if against the recommendation of the G.C. But in doing so Eld. Irwin feels that he will have to defend his course before the G.C. But he

Mother and W.C. -5-

is disappointed in not being able to find in writing anything from mother regarding this purchase that he can use when called upon to defend the position he has taken. Now, all these things together compel Eld. Irwin to the conclusions contained in his letter to you.

Now, W.C., when it has come to ^{the case of} Eld. Daniells, or others high in authority, you have, through your influence, again and again, gotten from mother the statements necessary to sustain their influence in times of stress and misunderstanding. This has doubtless been necessary and proper. But when it comes to the place where I have been in danger you have steadily stood in the way of ANY statements from mother that would do for me what her words have done for these others.

Now, my very existence is at stake. Mother HAS made statements that induced me to take the load of this property onto myself. I own I did not act wisely in doing so, but I acted from an honest purpose, and have had my lesson. NOW is the time for her to repeat to others what she has said to me.

For instance, suppose she should write out some of the items mentioned in your letter to the G.C., in regard to the food business in the South. Then state that she DID advise me to buy this Food Factory property, and DID make the statement to me ~~xxxxxx~~ that it would be needed in the work of the South. That she made this statement as the result of the light she had received regarding this work in the South. As to the items mentioned in your letter, she could simply quote some of the things she has written and that you copied in your letter. They are as strong as anything you or she could write now. Then, as mentioned above, if she would state that she advised the purchase of the Food Factory property because of the light she had regarding

the work in the South it would be all that is needed

I will add that what I here ask is for mother to state only such things as you acknowledged in YOUR letter to G.C. *Over her signature sent to Eld. Irwin*

If I can get this, it will sustain Eld. Irwin in his effort in the matter, and positively make the condition possible. And why not? If it was truth then it is truth now. If she advised me to buy and I did buy, why should you or she refuse a statement from her, over her signature, that she did so advise?

Now, my brother, my all is in the balance. Will you and mother refuse to set me right before the proper people, and acknowledge mother's advice which led me into the purchase that now *with other things* promises my ruin. A little prompt effort now will save me, and a little more hanging back will probably result in my overthrow. I ask for nothing new, but only an acknowledgment of what is in the past,--a fact of the past.

I am told by one member of the committee here that Elds. Irwin and McVagh are enthusiastic over the matter, largely from the letter you wrote to G.C. They have confidence in the success of the undertaking. Eld. Irwin came to the front and said that if some others would join him in it, he would put \$500.00 of his own money into the enterprise, without interest, and not grumble if every dollar of it was lost. Bro. Know, the only other man who could do so proposed to put in another \$500.00, and unite his food store work with the new Food proposition. So you see they are willing to lift themselves. *{ But nothing can be realized on these to stay the bank in their demand -*

Now, I do not know as there is ~~anything~~ anything more that I can say in regard to this matter. May the Lord impress you with the fact that SOMETHING must be done, without any delay or questioning, to tide over the crisis in this food factory purchase, or I shall be put to the wall in a serious way.

Mother and W.Ø. -8-

I will add a word about Bro. Hare. Eld. Irwin feels safe about the Food Factory proposition if Bro. Hare will take a hand in its management. Bro. Hare did promise me that he would do so, but he now fears that the intention is to put him as an operator instead of one to use his experience to make the work successful, while others made the foods. He told me that he had been compelled to leave the detail of the food work in Australia to ~~xxx~~ save his life, and he did not come to go into that grind again. Now, I think there is something of a misunderstanding on both sides, and I shall try to even it up. Bro. Hare has come to my house in the country, and we have moved into the city while I finish my book. We give them the down stairs of our house, furnished, with cow and garden, free. I wanted them to come as soon as they reached Nashville, but Bro. Hare thought he could work with the committee better if he was not at my house. Now, as the situation is he will not agree to stay with the food business more than three mos., but I really believe that if his position is made more satisfactory, and he sees the critical nature of the situation, he will stay until he has it in good working order and prosperous. I thought that if you could write him and encourage him, and give him to understand the depth of difficulty there is here, and how much depends on this thing being put ~~right~~ right.

Dear mother and brother. The Lord is blessing me in my speaking to the people, and I do not believe He desires for me to be disgraced and trodden into the earth, and put where there can be no recovery for years, if ever. I want to cut loose from all those things where I have tied up my time and my money, and which are responsible for my difficult position now. I have been getting things down as close as I could see how to do it. But I have relied on my large income to pull me through, and have allowed my surroundings

Mother and W.C. -9-

to lead me to do many things which I should have left undone, and to go in farther and farther when I ought to have stopped. I can now say, I have learned my lesson. I shall get all outside matters off my hands just as fast and as soon as possible, and confine my efforts to the work the Lord has given me to do. I wish I did not own a dollar's worth of property in the world, and simply lived in rented quarters.

Now, whatever statements you may send, please send one to Eld. Irwin, and one to me. Just a little hesitation on your part there, or a little deciding that some other plan will do as well, and I am gone. A statement from W.C. will not do. Mother made the statements TO ME HERSELF. A letter from her PERSONALLY is all that will do the work, and I believe it is due to me, and especially as it is just what will save me at this time.

Now, in regard to the \$477.00. This is not for me, but for the property, and is to be paid back by the Committee. Is there not some one out there who will step into the breach? I shall see the bank to-morrow, and see what they will do. I will write you again to-morrow.

With much love,

J. E. White

Eld. Irwin knows nothing about this letter or its contents -