

Southern Missionary Society,

(INCORPORATED.)

1025-27 Jefferson Street.

LONG DISTANCE PHONE, 1787.

Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 15, 1901.

Dear Mother:--

I have been glad to know that you finally went to New York, for I know it will end in your coming to Nashville, and I very much desire that you shall come here and see the situation of the work for yourself. Eld. Daniells passed through here Thursday morning, and intended to stop, but we met him on the train, and arranged with him to go on to the Florida camp-meeting and stop here at the time you will be with us. We all felt that this would be far the best way. I feel that there are matters of great importance connected with this work that cannot be properly sensed unless you are present.

Now, mother, there is one thing I wish to present to you and ask you if it is not so. The colored people and the poor white people of the South number more than double the population of both Michigan and California. Now, I ask if every other thing is equal, if there should not be as much done for the same number of people in this field as in the states I have mentioned. But more than this, as they have been neglected here so long, should not more be done for them at the present time, on the very account of the past neglect. Now, in point of fact, the tithe that is used in Michigan and California each year amounts to about \$80,000.00. But if \$10,000.00 were to be used by the Southern Missionary Society in its mission work among the colored people and the poor whites a regular inquisition would be raised.

Now, I do not desire to draw any improper comparisons, and my only desire is to see the work go forward. Neither do I want to be making complaints, but want to work with all my might. But there are many states that have been established in the work for many, many years that are simply using in their own borders all the tithes that come to them. Michigan has voted to give \$700.00 this year to support two schools in Mississippi, but up to date have not been able to send anything on this pledge. But this sum is only about one-fiftieth of their tithe. But if all our old states would do as well as that, and each one take some special line of work, what an impetus could be given.

Now, as stated in a recent letter to you, all our workers are now cut off from the pay roll, even to ordained ministers, and our Society has them all to pay. This is helping this work with a vengeance. It was voted at last Gen. Conf. that MORE should be done for this work than ever before. Eld. Prescott made a great speech to that effect, but somehow just as soon as such men get into office all these things are forgotten. You say that there was a change made at last Gen. Conf. Yes, I suppose there was, but it is a change that has borne not a dollar of fruit during the months that have passed, (and it has been seven months), to the betterment of the colored work in the South, except the passing over of some money that the Gen. Conf. had been gathering up on the alleged restitution fund. Yes, there has been a

change. The mission work in the field has been bound about much more closely than ever before. I have been cut off from the pay roll of the Gen. Conf., and have not had a dollar of pay for eight months. Eld. Halladay has been cut off, and so has Eld. Barry, and brother Warnick, all of whom are ministers, and three of them regularly ordained. I am going without my pay, and the Southern Missionary Society is paying these other ministers in addition to its school and other work.

The funds of the Society were exhausted some time ago, and if it had not been for the \$1000.00 that came as a loan through you the society would have been compelled to suspend work. The present funds will not hold out very long.

As to the future of the work I am planning to shape my affairs so that I can provide for it as long as I can. Then unless help does come I must step out, but I have faith in God, that as he has always provided he will continue so to do. I am preparing to mortgage my property as soon as it is completed, and get every dollar on it I can, and shall throw myself into the breach. I will have a thousand dollars at least that I can use in carrying the expenses of the work, and I hope that before that is gone something else will turn up.

I am free to say that at one time last week I gave up to utter discouragement. There were bright hopes and large promises at the time of Gen. Conf., but the work is being bound about closer and closer. I am feeling better to-day, for I know that the Lord cares for this work, and that in his own good time he will work for it.

The work here is in a healthy condition. I refer to the interest in Nashville. I inclose a card announcing the opening of the series of meetings for this fall and winter. There is deep interest in this part of the city. Many who have been at work on the building are inquiring after the truth. We hope for a good ingathering from these meetings. A missionary organization has been formed at the office, and ~~effort~~ efforts are being made in different parts of the city. We expect this week to purchase a location for the colored work here, and if so we shall have to do some building for that work.

I notice what you say in regard to Bro. and Sister Barry. I am doing all I can for them. He has had some lessons to learn, but I think he has learned some of them quite well. At present he is laboring in Louisville, Ky. Bro. Warnick is another colored man that we are trying to make useful. He has many lessons to learn, but there is good material in him. He is an excellent speaker, but must be held with a firm hand to his work. He is inclined to go off into schemes of his own that tend to bring him to grief. We have brought him to Nashville so that we can have him under our own care. He can do a good work here, we are sure.

During the past two years we have put several colored men at work in the field, and are well pleased with the results. Most of them are settling down into useful laborers, working earnestly and faithfully for their own people. There is more of this work that we would and could do, but being cut off from all income we can only undertake to care for the work that immediately surrounds us. But I shall try to be as patient as possible, and hold the work together as well as we can till you all come here and we have a council in regard to the field. I want to see you, W.C.W., and Elds. Daniells and Kilgore, and with all together to go over the ground and have a full understanding.

From your son, J. E. White