



"MORNING STAR,"  
Southern Missionary Steamer.

J. E. WHITE, MASTER.  
Permanent Address, - - - - - Vicksburg, Mississippi.

L'Argent, Miss., May 13, 1897.

W. C. White,  
Battle Creek, Mich.

Dear Brother:--

I wrote you a few days ago, and sent in the letter a copy of my letter to mother. In it I expressed myself as to the mistakes I have recently made. I hope you have had time to read this matter, and so understand my position. I have been learning lessons for all the time I have been trying to serve God instead of self, and now in his own good time I have had one more,--sharp and right to the point, and by his help I shall let it be a warning for the future. But I can explain matters much more satisfactorily when I see you.

On the whole God has blessed and prospered me wonderfully during the years I have been trying to follow his leadings. I have paid hundreds of dollars of debts, have become sole owner of the Star, and have re-built it and furnished it. I would be out of debt down here, and with all needed means for the work I have undertaken if it had not been for this last undertaking. And even here I would be able to settle up pretty closely, if it were not for the fact that timber is slow sale this season, and I shall have to wait for much of it till the saw mills get out of water and they make up much of it into shingles and then I must dispose of them. In the meantime I cannot see but I shall have to arrange somehow for aid if possible. As it is I am worried about the work and evrything about it, and do not know how to make any plans whatever. As luck would have it I have been practically cut off from work, both here and in Yazzo City largely on account of high water. So I have been giving much of my time to closing up matters as rapidly as possible, so as to get it off my hands, and be able to throw myself into the work

unreservedly. At the same time I have tried to write on my new book, but it is little I can do in this line, which requires careful study and accuracy, with the care and trouble of these business matters on my mind.

My plan now is to run into Vicksburg all the logs that will sell to make into lumber as quickly as possible, and make the receipts of this go as far as it will in settling my obligations. Then we shall run out a lot of other timber that will make shingles, and take that to Vicksburg, where I have arranged with a mill there to make it into shingles on the halves.

In the meantime I expect to close up my new book soon, and the royalties on the first sales of that will make me easy again. Then my first work will be to let this book pay up the remainder of my debts in the north, and when you are here I shall make some arrangement to settle with you.

But in the immediate present I am hampered,--not for means to do business on, but for means to close up affairs here, and put myself into the work. I see but one way out. About two years ago I received a letter from mother, with an order from here on General Conference to let me have \$300.00 on her account, which money she stated I was to use in settling debts in B.C. I did pay over \$300.00 worth of debts at that time, and I did get the money on this order. But I arranged at the time to not have it charged to mother, but to have it charged to me, and keep mother's order as security. This \$300.00 I paid back when I was north last fall. *Gen. Conf. has mother's original order still.*

Now, if I could arrange to have the use of this sum in the same way as before it would relieve me entirely from embarrassment, and place me where I close up everything quick, and lay up the steamer at Yazoo City, so far as business with it goes, for the season, and use it for the purpose it was built for, as headquarters for the work there.

In the meantime I shall take more time on the new book, and it

can soon be brought out. I will arrange that one-half of the royalty on this new book shall go to settle this account. Now, I ask you to think this matter over, and if it seems feasible to you, bring it before the Gen. Conf. people and see if it can be arranged. If all of it cannot come at once, I can get through with part of it at a time, provided I can know when I can depend on the remainder, and I can get along with my matters in that way. I know this is considerable to ask under the circumstances, but it is the only way out I can see without danger of considerable loss.

The fact is, a little may make me a great deal of trouble here. There are many who hate me on account of the work I am here to do. A steamboat is liable to seizure for a debt without any exemption, or the usual formalities of matters of this kind. I do not want to leave a loop-hole for anything of the kind. If my plan is feasible, I ask you to give the matter attention as soon as possible. All I can add is, with God's help this year 1897 shall see me out of debt here in the south there in the north, and to you. I cannot hope to settle with mother in full till later, but I intend that she shall be paid.

With this I must leave the matter with you. I will only add, if this arrangement is made, I shall be glad if a draft for a part of it at least can be sent at once to me at Vicksburg. It is right now that the pinch comes.

I shall send for the mail to-day, and hope to get a letter from you in it giving the date when you will be here. We are all well, and feel that the lord is taking us nearer to him day by day.

Your brother,

*J. E. White*

P.S. = There is \$400, or thereabouts due you on old \$ and \$200 borrowed by Central Mfg. Co. These matters I shall arrange to settle on some basis when you come, J.E.W.