

> Oakland, California

July 13, 1874

My Dear Brother Butler,

I have your good long godly letter of the fifth, and would here express to you my grateful thanks for the kindness and candor with which you touch points where my course may look objectionable to you. < . .

My heart is full, not of grief and complaints, but of love to God and His dear people. The Lord is at work for me, and I am being led out to see my mistakes and errors, to give myself to the Lord fully, to meet with patience, and hope whatever the Lord may suffer to come upon me, and also to pray that God will restore my soul and fit me physically and spiritually to fill any place He would have me.

My position and relation to the cause is a riddle to myself. I think if I had followed the Lord fully, I should now be with my wife, in strength and courage, to attend the camp meetings. I have no doubt but it was the design of God for my mind, illuminated by His Holy Spirit, should be exercised, and have influence in the leading enterprises of the Cause in the different stages of its advancement.

But whether Satan would not have so affected such men as Andrews and Waggoner, and others who might have been without experience in the difficulties of such a position, and created difficulties that would have ruined me, is still a question with me as I take a view of my weaknesses.

I think you will cheerfully admit that you are much better prepared to look in mercy upon the errors one might commit in your position, than you were before you felt the pressure. Satan has laid his plans adroitly, and has succeeded with Andrews, Waggoner, Smith, Gage, and others. He has run them into the dark, which brought crushing burdens on me, which in my weakness and folly I let crush me and separate me from the main part of the work to which God called me.

O, that I had stood firm in the counsel of God, and had waited in faith and hope for him to open the way before me. I now heartily repent, and I fully believe that God will forgive. But that He will restore me to the position He designed that I should fill, remains a doubt in my mind. Sometimes faint hope comes up in my mind that God will restore me fully, and let me finish my course with joy; then

the feeling rushes over me, that it is impossible.

I am sorry, my dear brother, that you are compelled to fill the place God designed that I should occupy. I am the loser, you will be the gainer. And now, if God will accept of me, with such men as yourself to pity and help, instead of watching for some chance to call in question my acts, I would joyfully take any position that would best serve the cause, and glorify God. You need not fear that I will bring any burden on you, whatever in regard to those matters where you have moved to the best of your ability. I have simply suggested my fears to the General Conference Committee, as I see you laying out plans to invest during 1874 not less, I think, for school than--

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|--------------|----------|-------|
| for let | \$16,000 | |
| for building | \$44,000 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| | \$60,000 | Total |

The highest I had suggested was \$35,000 for 1874, and \$15,000 for 1875. But you may need as large a school in little Battle Creek, and the building may not cost as much as I figure. If I have, Brother Butler, in a single instance, occupied the position of one watching your course, with a spirit to find fault, tell me plainly. This course I have seen in Andrews, Waggoner, and with pain I saw it growing with yourself, about the time you wrote me that raker about what I said of the Seventh-day Baptists in my report of first Milton camp meeting, dress, popularity, etc., and as I have despised this course in others I have felt sure I should not be guilty of it myself.

Had I been in a good state of mind and health last winter I should have written respecting the size and cost of the schoolhouse. But as I did not, it is no time for me to arouse the jealousies of our people to your honest decisions. Hence, I only throw out hints to only the Gen. Conf. Committee.

In reference to the Institute, no one has given me a single hint that persons were calling for value of stock taken. But I think one-fourth or one-third the cash on hand would meet any pressing demand in that direction. There should be not less than \$5,000 cash on hand. And I do hope there is breadth of calculation enough at the Institute to send the charity patients out to get their own furnished rooms to give room to paying ones. And not to keep whining Seventh-day Adventists month after month at the Institute. I think the records will show that these

charity patients are kept twenty-five percent longer than paying ones, and then many of them go home grumbling. But if charity patients are to come to Battle Creek Institute, would it not be better for the churches to which they belong, who know all the facts in the case, to raise the money for the members of their own church, than to throw that many into a general fund, to be used where no person, or church feels responsible? Would it not?

My mind is the same in regard to building more at Institute. Show me the doctors, and then build away. Hustle young men off to some doctor mill and get ready. Our Institute buildings are already larger than our doctors.

As for the school, I now think \$30,000 in Battle Creek, and \$20,000 in Mount Pleasant. I would be better than \$50,000 in Battle Creek. Teachers are plentier than doctors of our stamp. But the future will tell. Godahead and finish up well, as cheap as you can, and you will find me with you.

> As to the work here, some men here with more impulse and schemes than good judgment, tried to drive me into a purchase that would have been a great mistake. And added to that, a too premature application of Ellen's vision relative to the future work, almost tipped me to make the mistake. I have abandoned the idea of purchasing real estate at present. I have types, and other material to print the Signs at a cost of about \$1,000.00. I get the press work done elsewhere. By December I expect to have power press, engine etc., and a list that will run the press all the time. I am not sure that Oakland is the place. Land, and water and fuel for the engine are scarce and very high here. May the Lord direct as to the location. We have a good church here. I preach the dedication of their new Hall Sabbath the eleventh.

I am now settled that the True Missionary should be merged into the Review and Herald, that to be our church paper, to contain weekly appointments and reports of missionary work. Once a month will not do. And that the Signs be the pioneer, to go everywhere. I speak for 16,000 by New Year's. I shall soon appeal to the T and M Societies on this point, and Reformer. < * * *

The publishers of Reformer and health books respectfully announce to the president of the General Conference that they are to adopt the following:--

1. To let the T and M have bound books, pamphlets, and tracts at 1/2 discount.
2. That no individual shall take advantage to personal benefit from this liberal offer to the T. and M. Society that has done so much.
3. This 1/2 discount will be only on all books that shall have been in the market one year. For the first year the discount on Bound books and Pamphlets will be 1/4 discount.

4. One-half premium will be allowed the T. and M. for all new subscribers to the Reformer at \$1.00 a year.

5. We shall offer the T. and M. Society two dollars worth of our books at retail prices for any new subscriber they will forward with \$1.00. This will be giving the T. and M. Society \$1.00 worth of books at the 1/2 discount per every subscriber and \$1.00. And we take our pay for the reduced \$1.00 worth of books in this way, 50 cents for the Hygienic Book Fund and the other 50 in canvassing. But I may not make this plain. We propose to furnish the T and M with abundance of new tracts, and with pamphlets and Bound books one year old, without costing them one cent. We will give them a discount of 1/2 on Reformer in this way. For every new subscriber and \$1.00, we will allow fifty cents premium, and let them have the above-named books at 1/2 discount. So that for every subscriber and \$1.00 we will send them \$2.00 worth of books at retail, or \$1.00 worth at 1/2 dis. wholesale, and we will get our pay, 50 cents, from Hygienic book fund and the other half we take in the 1/2 premium.

So, it amounts to this: We furnish a Reformer one year and \$1.00 worth of books, at 1/2 discount wholesale price for \$1.50. The one dollar paid by the subscriber and the 50 taken from Book Fund. This is next to giving ~~(going?)~~ the whole thing.

And further, any young men and women that the T. and M. will recommend to canvass for a livelihood, we will allow them 1/2 on Reformer, and let them retain 50 cents and send 50 cents to the office, or take the 50 cents on each copy in health publications at 1/2 discount.

These institutions and personal interests are strong enough at Battle Creek. Having reached this point, now the object must be to serve the cause of God. But health books cannot be offered at the prices of our other publications. Doctors and

medical writers will not work as we ministers have done, and still do. I pay J.H. Kellogg \$6,000.00 ?? a year, after boosting him up to his position with my own capital. The profit on Family Physician will be about \$200.00. On Life Incidents it was \$1,200. , the latter \$5,000. The writing of the former cost me in cash \$500. The latter not a cent out.

You must allow us the retake , with the allowance outside the T. and M., at present prices and on all new books the first year or you will break us down.

Our present prices on health books are only about 3/5 other health offices. Their twenty-five-cent books are not larger than our 15-cents. The same is 10 cents in S.D.A. P.H.

Well, if it please God, I want to counsel with you. Haskell and others, and *lay* plans to extend the Reformer, and Signs, and talk over many other important things.

The Spirit of God is moving upon me. Our brethren are not aware how much the Lord is doing for us. Brother George, this begins to look to me like the coming of Christ pretty soon. My light has been the progress of the message. My eye has been there. Any amount of wars, earthquakes, floods, hurricane, pestilences, etc., would not quicken my faith in the coming of Christ. The third message must do its work. Prophecy relative to the message and the action of the two-horned beast must be fulfilled. My eye has been there for years. And as things have moved heavily, I have felt sad. But, Bro. George, God is beginning to do great things for us. And I have a little hope and faith that His blessed long arm will reach the pioneers in this cause that are almost wrecked, and touch them with His gracious finger, and restore them to His favors and to their positions in the work. < . . .

I believe, Lord, help thou mine unbelief. I do have a glimpse of a better day when Andrews, Waggoner, White and Smith shall stand in the light, and in the strength of God,--send forth from their warm, yet renewed brain a flood of light. > O, my soul, what emotions well up in thee, as I trace these lines, and my hand shakes, and my sight is blinded with weeping. I must, I shall see the desire of my poor heart in the complete restoration of these. It is time to put away our folly, our baby whimsy, and

come nigh the mighty God of Jacob. I have wonderful seasons of prayer nowadays. L
My heart takes in the entire field, and I hope God is fitting me to be a better man,
and a help in His cause.

The message is growing more real. The great God seems nearer, Jesus more precious, faith more praiseworthy, unbelief more sinful, whining more contemptible. O, no, George, where is there a class of men so favored as we are? How ungrateful most all our ministers have been. May God forgive me. How ashamed we shall be to see the martyrs of Jesus and the suffering saints of all ages! God have mercy.

As I write, a heavy calm comes over me. I shall see my way out. And I think, I might help others.

} In the Signs No. 4, I suggest a tour East. God's will be done. I had rather stay here could it be His will. But should the Lord send me, it might after all be best to have General Conference at the close of campmeetings were it not that the Californians now decide to put their campmeeting off to the first of October only so that we can meet with them after the Eastern meetings are all closed. Should I come east we should have to leave Chicago as early as September 27 or 28.

You can judge whether to have the General Conference at which camp meeting, or at Mass., or where you please. I think I shall have to go east.

(Signed) James White L

P.S. I got of you only one \$300 draft. I have fully traced the ~~matter~~^{matter} out, and can distinctly account for all I have received. I sent the \$500, and the \$300 you sent me to Battle Creek as they will not sell here. J.W.

P.S. When you have read this, please send it to Brother Lindsay, to be read by my wife and Brother Abby. J.W.