

Battle Creek
December 10, 1880

W.C. White, Dear Son--

Hopeful and cheerful expressions in your last letter did us good. I think, however, that you apply to yourself personally one remark in your last, I designed for California generally. It was that which you say I said about having regard for me while I had money.

I will copy on the back of this page * "On what interest would you loan us \$5,000 of the ^{Harvey?} Harry?? estate money for two years?"

"The insinuation that there was a time when your counsel was prized because you had money is cruelly unjust, etc., etc."

That will do.

1. I have on hand less than \$2,000, Harry?? Estate money. The Review office has that without interest.

2. In regard to insinuating, you fire sharp at a man of straw.

That is enough. I retract before the feeling that prompted that barking up the wrong tree. You will see the day that you will regret your rashness--this strange re-capacity of my humiliation and confession.

What kind of a spirit has entered my dear Willie that he imagines he can drive his father to ^{obiesance} obiesance? I had referred to the fact in my letters that I had been liberal with you. This fact you will not deny. I had regretted that I made reference to that fact, and had confessed it to my children. And now, my dear boy, I ask you, Would not a kindly reference to my confession have more ^[then] ^{condescension} condescension to our mutual happiness, than your sharp condemnation of the conduct of your father? You will learn better in time. God bless you.

I now give up the effort to help the Pacific Press. I did expect you would quit chiding me, and would kindly and affectionately hold out inducements to me to write for the Signs. But I shall say no more. General Conference voted at my suggestion to send 1,000 copies of the Signs to England, to be paid for by the several tract societies pro rata, according to the tithe of each state. But I have no heart to carry the matter further, until the Signs shall be improved. Elders Butler and Haskell will be here in a few days, and I shall lay the matter before them.

My offer in regard to furnishing shells? of new books, etc., was made on the supposition that you would put forth efforts to induce me to co-operate with you to help the Signs and Pacific Press. Your last letter convinces me that I cannot help that institution with your present views and feelings.

I have not designed to drive you to do right. I felt that I had right to claim that I had greater claims on Pacific Press than any other man, that I could help that paper and office more than any other man, and that under the circumstances, self respect demanded an expression from someone through the Signs, respecting my work on the coast, with a cordial invitation for me to write. This would give me that influence with its readers I should have, and increasing good feelings. If you and General Conference Committee refuse this, and take the responsibility of letting the Signs go to England and anywhere else in its present lean condition, I shall be clear, after stating fully my feelings. If you call this driving, then I understand you. I wished to let you see what you were doing.

The subject is now fairly before you. I will do no more driving. So let your meanness slack up.

The books for the canvassing field move slowly. At present I shall run them at Review office.

We are having cold weather and sleighing.

(Signed) Your father,

James White