

D.F. 206

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STORIES RE EARLY EDUCATION IN BATTLE CREEK

W. C. White

In 1866, I think it was, Goodloe Bell came to Battle Creek sanitarium, a terrible dyspeptic. He was given a room in the old north lodge, along with Brother Osborne. Bell was determinee to have nothing to do with the religion of this peculiar people. But he was a light sleeper. He would awake in the night without making any move that would disturb Osborne, and hear Osborne praying for him night after night. It broke his heart, and that led him to become a Seventh-day Adventist.

As he began to gain strength as the result of his sanitarium treatments he took up the work of sawing wood with a hand saw. He was sawing wood for the Review and Herald, in their back yard. Edson White was working in the typeroom, and as he was outside one day he saw this man sawing wood, and was drawn out to make his acquaintance. He found that he was a teacher, and that led him to talk about his educational desires and lacks, and his hatred of grammar. Bell told him that grammar, properly taught, was one of the most interesting studies in the world.

This conversation led Edson to believe that Bell would be a good grammar teacher. He asked Bell if he would teach a group of young men. He said that he would, and, as he told the story to me, he said:

"I was surprised one day, on answering a knock at my door to see J.E.\* White standing there with about fourteen young men."

It was soon arranged that Bell should conduct an evening grammar class. His reputation as a teacher became known through the testimony of these students, and in the year 1877 the Battle Creek church organized a school, and employed him at a moderate salary.



A year or two after this unsuccessful effort, a family by the name of