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Forty Years

January 29, 1932.

R 4,  
Caldwell, Idaho.

Dear Brother

I hold in my hand your letter of January 24. In it you ask me to tell you in what year Great Controversy was written.

In reply will say that Great Controversy was written in the summers of '82 and '83. It was published and copyrighted in 1884. In some of its articles, material was used that had been written many years before, but in the chapter in which reference is made to the history of Ancient Israel, as a striking illustration of the past experiences of the Adventist people, I see no evidence of former writings having been incorporated, and we can say definitely that that chapter was written in 1883.

Testimonies to the Church, Volume 5, as we now have it, is made up of three numbers of the Testimonies, - 31, 32, and 33.

By reference to the footnote in Testimonies, Volume 5, page 9, you will observe that the camp-meeting address was read at the General Conference, December 1881, and from the footnote on page 21, you will see that that article was read December 1881 before Conference delegates. On page 217, you will observe that the appeal was written at Healdsburg, California, May 30, 1882. This number of the Testimonies -31, was printed in 1882.

Number 32 of the Testimonies was printed in 1885, and Number 33 was printed in 1889. On page 368, you will find the date February 13, 1885, and on page 541, you will find the date March 1, 1887.

I am very sorry for any of my brethren who spend a lot of time trying to figure out and predict just what is going to happen forty years after something else has happened.

I consider it a very unprofitable study, and I would appeal to all my brethren to turn their thoughts and their energies to an understanding of the duty of today, and to an effort to organize for efficiency in the closing work of the Message.

Sincerely your brother,

W. C. White