

9 COPY

Brother Forga.

Peru P¹⁰ Problems. 33
Spanish Literature. South American
Institution

Diamante, Entre Rios,
Oct. 5, 1907.

ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE
FILE COPY

DO NOT REMOVE

Elder W.C. White,
Sanitarium, Cal.

Dear Brother White:---

Your letter of July 8 together with copies of a number of other letters, was gladly received. I have read them all with a great deal of interest, and I can assure you they were greatly appreciated. There are many things in them that will be a help to us in the consideration of our needs. But I am rather discouraged in trying to write to you. I am behind in my work. Wife is sick in bed, the children have just recovered from the measles, I am building a house in order to give my family some necessary comforts and conveniences. We have just concluded a special course in our school, and the annual Argentine Conference and camp-meeting will begin in a little more than a week. These together with my correspondence, are keeping me very busy. I wish we had the Brother Novak you speak of here to help me out.

In fact, Brother White, it occurs to me that he would be a splendid man to have in connection with our Union office in South America, and he could at the same time serve in the local work of the River Plate field. We have been counselling about the necessity of a stenographer, and we have looked around to see whom we could find suitable and whom we could encourage to take a shorthand course; but we are unable to find any one in this field. We need a man who can correspond in English, Spanish, Portuguese, German, and French. We have correspondence in all these languages. You will see from this that ours is a polyglot field. We really need such a man.

First a little about Peru and Brother Forga. You have no doubt read my report in the REVIEW ere this, regarding my visit to that field. I found that Brother Forga is well known among the Protestants of Peru and some Catholics as well. They are aware, too, of where he is and what he is doing,--the Protestants, I mean--. In fact I first learned from a Baptist minister who has charge of the British Bible Society work, that he was translating for our people. He told me also that he had married into a prominent Adventist family. No doubt they are anxious about his future course. The Protestants are by no means friends of Seventh-day Adventists, and they dread and hate our work very much. I was told that there was no one in Peru who had as powerful a pen against Catholicism as Brother Forga. I thought I saw a slight attempt also to depreciate him because he had turned to be a Seventh-day Adventist. A Protestant minister in Ecuador who had never been in Peru made some inquiries about him, which shows that his reputation or pen had reached that Republic.

On account of the strong Catholic influence in Peru that Republic will prove a hard field to work. The laws are still very unfavorable, and in many places there is a very intolerant spirit. Arequipa is a very important city. I should judge that it should be a healthful place. It is beautifully situated at the foot of the snow-capped Misti and in a well-watered valley which supplies the place with fresh vegetables all the year. It is the door to the interior

which makes it a desirable place to have the message planted. It seems to me that physical and other conditions would make it a desirable place to begin medical work. There is a great work to be done among the Indians of Peru. Before attending the next General Conference (if it shall be my lot to attend it) I would like to make a more extended trip among them to get acquainted with the conditions. The one thing needed in Peru, is more help for aggressive work. Unless we could begin a school of sufficient size and teaching force to recommend it to the public, which would involve quite an outlay of means, I see no light in starting a school in Peru until we have more brethren.

I am glad you are finding a good translator in Brother Forga. This is a thing greatly needed. None of our brethren here pretend perfection in Spanish. It is natural that an American having learned some Spanish language rules, should think that he knows what is right in the matter; but we know, too, that oftentimes the nicer things in a language can not be learned by rule. The ear must be trained to it through the experience of many years. This makes it practically impossible to have good translations excepting by a native

We have no well-defined plan for Spanish and Portuguese literature. We are printing only our papers and some standard tracts. We feel the need of having more of the latter. We have in the past thought that "Great Controversy" of the size of the first canvassing edition would be a very desirable book as the others appear to us rather large for these fields. We also need a book upon the prophecies of Daniel and John. This has been discussed pro and con. We have thought that Eld. Smith's book was too large, yet we need something comprehensive to give Spanish workers a text book they may use in their work. I have sometimes thought that if we had a book on the kindred prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation, as for instance Daniel 2, 7, 8, and 9 and Revelation 12, 13, and 14, etc., it would give ample opportunity to give a forceful presentation of these prophecies. At our coming Union meeting in March, I hope some of these things may be considered.

Eld. John Mc Carthy who has now united with the Battle Creek Sanitarium faction, translated "His Glorious Appearing." I suppose the reason that two different translations of the Bible were used in two different parts of the book is that the first part was translated about six years ago and the rest several years later. Presumably he had changed in the use of Bibles during that time. Elder F.Z. Town, with Emilie Desvars, his assistant in the office, made corrections before sending it to be printed. In Europe other corrections were made, some of which Elder Town thinks were for the better and others for the worse. Who did this, I can not say.

Including church and mission school we had 93 names enrolled in our Argentine school this year. This is an increase of nearly 30 over last year, while last year we had some 20 more than the year before. Thus the prospects for our school from this standpoint are good. As many of the students are young, the immediate prospects for workers from the school are not so good. The people who patronize our school do not appreciate very much an education so that many of the students come only for a short time. This is im-

proving some, but in order to lift this as it should be, we need to be able to do better work than we can under present conditions. We lack room for students' quarters and school room and recitation rooms. Teachers have had regular recitation ~~measur~~ in dining and other rooms, and students have been packed in till there have been seven and eight in small rooms, and two occupied the bath rooms this year. Thus one of our great needs is more room. We are erecting a building 15 meters square which we are trying to get done for the next school year, but am not sure that it will be done. It is to be two stories. But even then we will not have as much room as we ought to have to carry on the school as it should be.

In our teaching force we are sadly deficient. We have had a German and an English teacher, the latter of whom taught Spanish. This year Dr. Habenicht who was principal, was occupied with his medical work, and consequently the school work was more or less neglected of necessity. It can not be carried on that way longer! Brother Lude has had a triple work as the only father in the home, teacher, and in charge of the farm. The situation demands more help. Am not sure yet about the man from Ecuador for our school, but I hope we will secure him. But even then we must have another man to take charge as principal. I believe that Brother Caviness would make an excellent man for us. I will speak with Elder Town about him as I think that he went to South Lancaster when Prof. Caviness taught there. We need badly a real Spanish teacher, one who can really teach the language, which we would have in the man from Ecuador, and another man to take charge and can teach in Spanish. Then we need more room. These are the first demands, for they are now more than needs. I believe that our brethren in the States are likely to underestimate the importance of this branch of the work, and therefore they are in danger of sending us second or third rate help. I appreciate very much your interest in this. While there are Indians and other people that can not read in South America, there are as intelligent people as one will find anywhere. There are probably more than a ~~million~~ million of emigrants coming every year, the larger number to Argentine.

In Argentine we have a property in Florida, a suburb of Buenos Ayres, which serves us as Tract Society, publishing and printing office. We purchased it for about \$1100, but it is worth \$500 more, or was when we purchased it. We have since added a good-sized room. We have about \$500 debt on it. This is all the debt our offices have. In Chile they have just purchased a property in Espejo, a suburb of Santiago, for about \$1500, which they think will serve their purpose. In a letter just received from my brother, he speaks as follows: "The Lord has worked for us. Just about two weeks ago the \$2000 came from the U.S.A, so that we can pay cash down for our place. Now count our blessings: When I came three years ago our school had \$400 debts. Now we have school buildings worth \$8000 all paid. We had an old hand press, with an old wornout paper cutter and some old type. Now we have presses, paper cutter, and type, and all worth \$8000. You know that this is so. We had no mission property excepting some benches half broken and a book cupboard. Now we have houses and land worth more than \$5000, and no debts. We are glad of this and praise the Lord for it." (The money in which he computes their wealth is Chileno paper which varies in value from \$3 to \$4 to the U.S. dollar.) I may say that according to my idea they have a good large press, a first class paper cutter, a small job press, and an

abundance of type in good condition, all purchased at a bargain after the earthquake.

I would like to give you a fuller idea of the Brazil situation than my time will permit. Without waiting for a response for money from the States for the purchase of a place for their printing work, they have purchased a place at Sao Bernardo, a suburb of Soa Paulo and the second largest city in the republic, for about \$3000, which they think is very good, a great bargain. Being about 3000 feet above sea level it will be healthful in that warm climate. It is about an hour by train to Santos, the largest coffee port in the world. I hope it will prove all that is expected. They are probably moving now from a corner from which the work can not possibly be served acceptably. They have an old press made a century ago, donated by the Berrien Springs School, which is a man killer to turn, and as it prints only two small pages at a time, it is anything but an economical machine. They ought to have a better press by all means. They have a job press also. We should plan on a growing printing work in Brazil.

We have a first class translator in the Portuguese in Wm. Stein, Rio Claro, Soa Paulo, but some how he gets so little done. He is thorough in the language, but some complaints are made that it is above the ordinary man. Emilio Hoelzle is the editor of their paper, as Stein stepped out for a while; and besides he is not the most desirable editor in some other respects. But Hoelzle is not perfect in the language, being a German. They have "Glorious Appearing," "Steps to Christ," and "Gospel Primer" besides some tracts in Portuguese. But "Steps" can not be used as the translation is a disgrace to the book. We are now planning on the small "Christian Temperance" (German) by your mother, in that language and the revision of STEPS, besides a number more tracts. If these can be gotten out or prepared, we will plan on something more for next year.

I have received a copy of "Coming King" in Spanish. It is certainly a neat book. As to the translation, I can not judge, and I have heard no one pass on it who is competent. For selling at the price it has one serious fault to our mind. As it is put up, it makes a very small sized book. It is believed that it can not be sold for such a price here.

I have received some testimonies a little before receiving your letter for which I am thankful. We will make good use of these at our coming camp-meeting.

In the same mail I received the Sabbath-school lesson pamphlet on the Everlasting Covenant and Jones' tract reviewing the same. I have looked over a few pages of each. I have no sympathy with Jones' spirit, nor his egotism, nor his attitude or sarcasm toward our organized work; but what little I have looked at the lessons, they have appeared to me to be rather wrong in what they teach, and in view of the conflict over these covenants in the past and the present attitude of opposition toward our organized work by Jones and Waggoner

who had such a leading part in these matters then, it has been an exceedingly inopportune time to bring such a phase of this question to the front! Note 2 on page 10 of the pamphlet, is unfortunate, although I do not know that Jones refers to it. Had the note read something like this, it would have been the truth: "Since man, through a lack of faith, disobeyed and fell, it must be evident that he can be reinstated only by a faith that will work obedience." Is it possible that this question will have to be fought through again by this denomination, this time with our enemies watching and criticizing us? I wish that we might be saved this humiliation. I do not know who the author of the lessons is, but this thing certainly would have borne more thought.

Well I must bring this epistle to a close. I hope it will not prove to be tedious to you because of its length. We pray the Lord to bless you in your work there, and your mother in her important work, and that the Lord may greatly bless her and help her in her age and feebleness.

Truly your brother in the work of the Master,

(Signed) J.W. Westphal.