

267 West Main Street.

Battle Creek, Mich., U. S. A.

July 3, 1902.

Elder A.G. Daniells,  
451 Holloway Road,  
London, N., England.

Dear Brother Daniells:--

I have not heard from you for some time, but suppose you are traveling around, and find your time very fully occupied. I regret also to say that I have not received any report of the European Conference. I hardly know what to make of this, in view of the fact that we expected considerable important matter from the brethren in Europe, and hoped to use it in keeping up and extending the interest of our people in the work in other fields.

We have done the best we could on the Christiania matter, and are now anxiously waiting the result. There are some hopeful indications, and we shall be disappointed if a good share or all the amount required is not raised.

There are several matters concerning which I thought I would like to write you. I understand that you expect to reach New York August 6, and in making plans for my own work about that time, it would be very helpful to know whether you have anything special in mind for me on your return.

The Institute in connection with the summer school at Berrien Springs will be held August 10--20; and they especially ask me to do something at that time for them if I could. I have also received an urgent invitation from the Ohio Conference Committee, asking me to attend their meeting, which will be held at Coshocton August 7-18. This you see will be at the same time as the institute, and will also be just the time when you arrive in New York. Have you any advice as to which of these invitations I should accept?

I do not yet know how much it will be possible for me to be away from the office. I find that in order to accomplish anything like what I want to do on the paper, I must give it constant attention. I do not think I need to explain to you why it is impossible for me to be away and still have things go on the paper as I wish to have them. Furthermore, We find it almost absolutely necessary to give Miss Cooper a vacation. She is likely to break down with nervous prostration almost any time unless she has a rest. To meet this, I have told Brother Evans that he might put Leon Smith in charge of the INSTRUCTOR for awhile, and let Miss Cooper go away for an entire rest. In that case, you will see that it will be very difficult for me to leave the office. I should be glad of your counsel in this matter.

The work in general seems to be going along much as usual; but just now we are in some perplexity over various matters that require our attention. We have been doing what we could to arouse the church here to the importance of providing a suitable church school for the children and youth of this church. We recommended that a suitable building be erected, and that a real effort be put forth to have a good school. These recommendations were unanimously adopted in a large meeting of the church; but when we come to the practical part of it, we make very little progress.

There is such a lack of union among both the leaders and the rank and file in the church, so much of the spirit of criticism and fault-finding, that it seems almost impossible to accomplish anything which requires unity of action. I have done about as much as I feel that I can do, and have given up any expectation that there will be any special advancement on the plans followed the last year.

The church board have been taking a course lately tending to quench any missionary spirit in the church and to head off any of our efforts for advancement in that direction. They have rescinded their vote in which they agreed to assume the expenses of the church clerk, librarian, and tithe collector. The missionary society has agreed to pay the librarian; but the clerk and tithe collector they propose to have paid as heretofore. They have also rescinded their action in which they agreed to appropriate \$500 from the treasury of the Tract Society toward the expenses of Brother Booth to Nyassaland, and have voted to have that amount apply on his support. The total result therefore of all our efforts to have the church do more in the raising of money to help the general funds amounts to this: That there is now an agreement still left not rescinded which calls upon the church to raise about \$250 on Brother Booth's support. I have said that we could not count on this, as the church board might meet next week and reverse that as the rest of their action. I think it is very clear that the General Conference has a duty toward this church to bring about a different leadership, and to install a different pastor. Until that is done, there is no possible hope of any change. I will not weary you by describing the experiences we have had in the church board meetings; but you can easily supply what is lacking in detail. *I did what I could to prevent these actions.*

I have just recently receives copies of instruction from Sister White with reference to the medical work, and the health food work. One lot is entitled "Testimonies on the Health Food Question," and the other, "The Relation that the Medical Missionary Work should Sustain to Its Workers, and to the Cause at Large." The instruction contained in these documents will bring matters to a direct crisis, as they are diametrically opposed to what Dr. Kellogg insists upon most strenuously. I suppose when you all return, and we get to it, we shall have to face this matter squarely.

The finances of the Mission Board will need some attention. At a meeting of the Board yesterday we found from the Treasurer's report, that we had in hand only a little over \$500, in addition to funds specially donated and appropriated to various fields and departments of work. Brother Spicer tells me that the different fields have received their due proportion of the amount appropriated to them, and that the Southern Union Conference has received the July remittance of \$1,000. It is also true that in sending forward the July payment to Christiania, we were obliged to draw two or three thousand dollars from our general funds. After the Christiania collection comes in, this amount can be replaced, allowing us a little to work on. But you can see that our situation now is quite different from what it was a year ago when we had over \$25,000 surplus. It simply means that we must stop appropriating large amounts to different fields until we have reasonable assurance that the money will be forthcoming when it is required.

We are constantly perplexed by the calls which are coming from various fields for expenses or investments that seem to us of a doubtful nature. There seems to be almost a craze to establish some sort of institution, or make some sort of investment, that calls for considerable outlay, without any promise of any immediate return in the work. Some of these things will require careful study, and it seems as though we must adopt a line of policy which will make it possible for us to reach the largest number of people with the direct testimony of this message.

I am also having a little experience with the Southern field, which causes me some anxiety. I think I wrote you that I was trying to hold off the strong appeals for this field until we had received the Christiania collection. I was expecting to take up the matter at once through the paper, and had a long article from Brother Butler and an editorial note already in type for the next issue of the REVIEW. In the meantime we have received letters from Brother Stone, the newly elected Treasurer of the Southern Publishing Association, in view of which I have not felt free to present these appeals to the people just yet. He writes that he went to Nashville to enter upon his duties as Treasurer of the Association, and that White and Palmer opposed the matter so strongly that it would have made an open rupture for him to do it. He then called for a meeting of the Board of Trustees to consider the situation, and to give instruction as to what should be done. Instead of doing this, Brother Butler wrote to Sister White, and declined to take any action until he should hear from her. Brother Stone writes that the majority of the Trustees of the Southern Publishing Association and of the Southern Union Conference Committee have no confidence whatever either in White or Palmer. He states further that money has been wasted in a terrible way there, and that as they are managing matters, it would require a continual stream of donations from our people to keep the institution from sinking. Knowing this situation, I can not go ahead and appeal to our people to sacrifice and send means to be used in such a way. I have therefore taken out the whole matter, and have written Brother Butler that I could not make appeals to our people through the paper until this state of affairs was remedied. I suppose this will make a great stir, as Brother Butler has already written me a letter to indicate his displeasure because I was not publishing his appeals as fast as he sent them in.

There are some other things that have a bearing upon the situation in the South. When I saw by their reports that Brother Keck had resigned all his official positions in the Union Conference because of "ill health," I thought I would, at the proper time, learn what the disease was which caused his retirement. I found on inquiry that Brother Butler had made a proposal of marriage to Brother Keck's wife's sister, a young woman about thirty-five years of age; that Brother Keck was much displeased over this matter, and through his influence it was broken off. This completely upset Brother Butler, and Brother Keck at once withdrew from all official connection with him and the work, and has returned to his home in Florida. Brother W.J. Stone was elected treasurer in his place. What the outcome of the matter will be, I do not know. But some of the brethren seem to feel as though Brother Butler had entered upon a second childhood, and that there was little prospect that he would be able to carry things through on right lines. Brother Stone says that White and Palmer have more influence over him than all the rest of the brethren. I am surprised at this, as I supposed Brother Butler would stand very squarely with the other brethren to put the work there on the

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basis which would command the confidence of the people both South and North.

I think perhaps I have written enough, and very likely more than I ought to trouble you with. I hope you are having a prosperous time in your work on the Continent, and shall be glad to hear from you whenever you have time to write.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

*W. H. Prescott*

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