

W.F. Prescott

53 Mercers Road, London N, Nov. 15th, 1897.

Dear Sister White:-

Your letter of Sept. 12th reached us here, coming by the way of Battle Creek. We were glad to hear from you and to get the matter which you sent with it. We are especially interested in all that you write about the progress of the work at Cooranbong and are thankful that you are being permitted to see the fruit of your efforts in behalf of a school there. From your letter and from letters from Bro. and Sister Haskell <sup>Ad</sup> it would seem that the Lord was especially blessing the effort to conduct a school in harmony with the light which he has given upon this subject. I have felt sure that it would be so.

I know that you will greatly appreciate having a suitable place in which to conduct the worship of God, and I suppose you are already occupying the new meeting house. I should like to be with you in all these experiences, but we are far separated just now. From your description I can see just where the new church is located, and where W. C. W.'s new house is and so I have a good picture of the situation in my own mind. We appreciate your kindness in taking so much time to write us all about these matters and I will try not to be so negligent myself again in writing. It seems that it was my own fault in not hearing from you oftener.

I suppose that W. C. W. has arrived some time before this and that he has told you much about the experiences in the last General Conference. You express surprise that Eld. Olsen went to Africa, that Eld. Irwin was chosen as President of the General Conference, and that I came to England. I cannot speak for the others but do feel free to tell you of my own experience in this matter, although I have not said so much about it to others. Long before I reached America I began to think about the General Conference and what my own duty might be at that time, and from some things which were written to me

by W. C. W. I thought it might possibly be expected that I should be elected to take Eld Olsen's place. This gave me considerable anxiety, as it did not seem to me that I was prepared to accept such a responsibility and I wrote to you from South Africa asking if you had any counsel as to what would be my duty if the brethren should ask me to take any special responsibilities. You replied that I should know what was duty when the time came. My experience at the Conference was a very peculiar one. At the opening of the Conference I could not feel in harmony with the way that things were going and protested earnestly against it. In some way there seemed to grow out of this a feeling that I was seeking Eld Olsen's place and trying to crush him, while at the same time I dreaded more and more the possibility of being selected for such a place. My work was very freely discussed and it was suggested that I should act as President of Battle Creek College, but it was concluded that this would not be advisable on account of the feeling against me by several of the teachers. It was also suggested that I should act as President of Union College, but it was thought that I did not not have strong enough hold upon the people to arouse their interest and secure their hearty support. It was suggested that I should act as President of the new European Conference. I did not refuse any of these propositions but told the brethren that I was willing to go anywhere and to do any work that the Lord wanted me to do, and all I asked was that he should guide in the matter. Finally, without recommendation from any committee but under what seemed to those present to be the special guidance of the Spirit of the Lord, by the direct action of the full conference I was requested to labour in England. I had been earnestly praying for the guidance which I had been assured I should have at that time but I had not felt free to make any choice for myself. So I accepted this recommendation as the leading of the Lord and

we have come to this field. Of course it would have been an encouragement to us if you had expressed yourself as seeing light in this move, but here we are without any choosing of our own and we can only go forward looking to the Lord for guidance and help in our work. There is certainly great need of work in this field. For the last two years the workers have been steadily leaving until now, besides myself and the two editors of the Present Truth, we have one minister and one licentiate in all England, and one minister in Ireland. Of course there are some other helpers and some canvassers, although the number has been much reduced, and when you think that there are over forty millions of people here it seems a great pity that so little can be done for them. The Foreign Mission Board has been accustomed to furnish from ten to twenty thousand dollars per year for the work here, but now two or three thousand will be their utmost limit. Thus the work is crippled on every side, but we shall leave it all with the Lord after doing the very best that we can. We are sure that there are souls here who desire light and truth and we shall try to seek them out and give them the message for this time, but it seems too bad to see so many of these great cities without the truth and no way at present of getting it to them by the living preacher. I have almost begun to think that we should have to appeal to Australia for some workers. In spite of all this there are calls being made for Bro. Spicer to go either to India or South Africa and the matter is still waiting for a decision. I hope he may be left here but do not feel at all sure. If you have any light for us in regard to our duty in any way, we should be glad to receive it. We are simply desirous of following the Lord's counsel and of working where he would have us work.

I do not know exactly what to say about the book, Christian Education. I wrote you before compiling the book and had your consent for doing so. I did the work without special pay from anyone and then had the book copyrighted in your name so that all your rights would be protected. I did not hand it over to anyone and have never made any arrangement with anyone about it but have left it perfectly clear for you to make any arrangement which you thought proper. I understood when I was in Australia that you proposed to put it on the same basis as your other books and I thought likely you had already done this. The only thing which I see that I can do is to write to Bro. Sisley, the present manager of the Review and Herald, and request him to see that you have a statement of the number sold, &c, &c, so that you can determine how much is due you on account of it at the usual royalty. This I will do at once and hope that it may bring you the desired statements.

We were much surprised to learn that Fanny Bolton had been giving a history of the McKenzie family in her article in the Review. I have never

E. G. W. 4.

97

read the article and so do not know what she wrote. I think Mrs. Prescott heard her read it before some of the sisters but did not recognize it as a history of the McKenzie family, not knowing of Fanny Bolton's connection with them or of their history, and she did not have any idea of its being published in the Review. Perhaps she ought to have known differently or to have done differently, but I am simply giving you the facts in the matter. On the strength of what you have written I have requested our editor here not to use her articles, and I have written to Eld. Jones, who is now the editor of the Review, your advice as to the advisability of using her productions in the paper. This is the best that I know how to do under the circumstances.

Now I must bring my long letter to a close. We are very comfortably situated here, Eld. Waggoner and I having taken a house together and divided it. We are in a pleasant street and within easy reach of the office and the Hall where our largest company holds its meetings. I leave this week for a trip of a month among some of the churches and companies which I was not able to visit when I was traveling about here last May and June. After that we have a special meeting here in London in the interests of the canvassing work which has rather fallen behind during the last two years.

We shall be glad to hear from you again and hope you may find time to write. Address according to the heading of this letter.

We send our kind regards to all the members of your family, and also to W. C. W. and his family. We should be glad to be remembered to all our friends in Cooranbong. Please tell Bro. and Sister Haskell that I have received their good letters and will write them later.

Yours with Christian love,

W. H. Prescott.

The little red book of which you speak was published by the General Conference Committee after I left America. At their request I furnished such matter as I had in my possession for it and edited it before I left. If this and some later matter could now be added to Christian Education, it would make a very valuable book.