

Boulder, Colo., Aug. 6, 1907.

Ans. W. C. W.

Dear Mother:--

This morning I received your letter of Aug. 1, and read it with great interest. I am sorry that your eyes are troubling you, and hope the God in His mercy will restore them to you. I cannot imagine what you would do if your eyesight should fail you.

The awful heat in Tennessee drove us out. Emma is with her sister in Battle Creek, and I came on here to complete my book. Bro. Rennings came ahead of me, and he is attending to the illustrating as I do the writing. It is a good combination, and I expect to finish the bulk of the work the last of next week, and then I shall go back and bring up the type work and plate making. This book must be out this fall.

Yesterday I received a thorough examination by the doctor here, and began taking thorough treatment. And it is thorough. They feel sure they can relieve my head and nerves so that I can go on with my work. Now to speak in public generally means congestion of the brain for a day or two. I find that the change in climate is a great thing for me. What a relief is the bracing air and the clear sunshine. Some call it hot here now, but it does not so impress me. I now feel that my work in the South is done, and that it is time for me to get out. I do not think I shall even spend the coming winter there. There is an enervating influence in the very air that I have been in too long. I am looking to Berrien Springs. I can help the school there in many ways, and Eld. Kauble is very desirous for me to come. Emma always did better in Michigan climate than in California, or Colorado. The South is death to her.

I have some plans in mind for the sale of the Food Factory which I hope to make work, even if I have to sacrifice on it.

I am glad for what you wrote regarding the meeting house at Knoxville, for the colored. I feel that Knoxville is an important center, and there should be at least \$1000.00 expended in building an appropriate building. There is work to be done in Knoxville, and I know that but little can be done for the colored people until they have a church that is a credit to the work.

Now, about the ~~the~~ \$300.00 given to the Gen. Conf. by Sister McDearmon. I learn that this \$300.00 is a part of the \$500.00 which you borrowed from her some time ago, and has some time to run yet. But it seems to me that the Gen. Conf. could advance the \$300.00 on that matter, and wait for you till the note falls due. I want to see that church under way soon, and it will not do to delay it, for the workers are there now and can do a good work if there is a suitable place for them. If you will talk this matter over with W.C. he will understand the situation, and I am sure he can arrange with the Gen. Conf. to appropriate the money for that purpose, and then raise the money and let you pay it back when the note falls due. W.C. will understand how to manage the matter.

I am invited to present this church need to the church at Boulder, and perhaps at the Camp-meeting to begin the 22nd. in Denver. I believe I can get a hundred at least out of Colorado. I understand that the Battle Creek church has raised about \$100.00.

Now, mother, cannot this matter be presented by letter to some of the churches in California. I hope it can. I do not see why Cal. cannot take hold of such an enterprise as well as other states.

As ever, Your Son,

J. E. White

Since writing the inclosed letter my mind has been running on a line of work which I feel that I am specially fitted to do, and that is the work of preparing simple literature for the children, which will be equally adapted to the colored people and the poor white people in the mountains of Tenn. Ky., and North Carolina.

There has been a sentiment developing that our offices should direct their attention to the making and circulating of larger books, and to the exclusion, largely of the smaller juvenile books.

As the matter has come to me, it seems to me that the real aim of our books is to educate the people along many lines. I think this is what the books are for. Now, if this be the case, where should this education begin? Shall we ignore the children and by every effort in our power direct the forces of our book makers and book sellers to the large books for the grown people and practically let the children go without? This does not look to me to be wisdom. I know something of the literature of the day for the children. It is largely made up of unreal characters and animals, with the greatest line of unreal and unnatural stories possible. In spite of all we may say, these things will get into the minds of the children, and the same unreal bent given to their character. When they get old enough to begin the study of life, they have such a groundwork of fiction and unrrality that it will take years to bring them to a normal condition of mind, and in most cases this can never be done. A foundation has been laid that cannot be overcome. It will go with the person all through life to mar and dwarf the character and unfit them for the real, stern duties of life.

Now, it seems to me that the children are being woefully and wickedly neglected by us as a people in the way of a clean, pure, uplifting literature. If there is anywhere that the work of education in book lines should begin, it seems to me that it should be with the children. We should have scores of books that are simple, and yet full of uplifting, elevating reading for the children from the least to those who are coming to years of maturity. If this is done every page of the books will be as interesting as these unreal things, and at the same time every page will be adding its little to a solid foundation for the character of the child. How can we neglect this? Our schools sre for the children so that they can get a proper start in life. Why are not the books that the child reads just as important as is the school?

If this is the case, is it not a part, and a prominent part of the work of our offices to see that they have a line of work on foot for the children as well as for the grown people. It seems to me that this book and canvassing work is viewed almost entirely from the commercial standpoint. A big book pays, so sell a big book. Cut out helps as far as possible, and get everybody onto the big books. Then where do the children come in? Shall we begin at the fountain head, before thw ~~xx~~ waters have become muddied, or shall we let the fountain take care of itself, ~~xx~~ and then come in with big books later to try to purify the steam that is already muddied? I believe there should be a strong campaign for good ~~ix~~ literature for the children, so that it can be introduced among our own people, and also to the people of the world by the millions.

Mother, I wish you would tell me what you think of this. Am I right

Your son,

J. E. White