

Edgefield, Tenn. , April 3, 1908.

Mrs. E. G. White,
Sanitarium, Cal.

Dear Mother,—

When I was there I mentioned to you an effort that was being made by the President of the West Michigan Conference to force Elder Nicola to sell his property and go out of Battle Creek.

I have been reading the Special Testimonies, Series B, No 10.

X2 On page 12 I read: "A strange thing has come into our churches. Men who are placed in positions of responsibility that they may be wise helpers to their fellow workers, have come to suppose that they were set as kings and rulers in the churches, to say to one brother, Do this, to another, Do that, and to another, Be sure to labor in such and such a way. There have been places where the workers have been told that if they did not follow the instruction of these men of responsibility, their pay from the conference would be withheld."

In the light of this statement it would seem to me that it was entirely out of place to bring a pressure to bear upon Elder Nicola in the way that is being done by the president of the West Michigan Conference but I do not propose to be an authority in anything of this kind and so I will simply relate the circumstances of the case as they were related to me by Sister Nicola when I was in Battle Creek a

few days ago. *As these people stood by the cause through every rebellion in Iowa, I ask you to stand by them now if you feel it is wise to do so.*

The claim was put forward, and supported by some rumor, that Elder Nicola was not in harmony with the work, but this they emphatically deny, but when the question was raised about their going they immediately began to plan what to do. They are both getting quite old and felt

that they must live near those who know them in case of sickness or anything of this kind. Elder Nicola went to Quincy, Mich., and found twenty acres of land with a house upon it where he could live provided the plans he had made were carried out.

These plans were arranged for their son Leroy and his wife to come and live with them so that they could have them to rely on in their old age and in case of sickness. This seemed to me a reasonable proposition. Brother Nicola presented the matter before the West Michigan Conference, ^{they considered it reasonable,} and they agreed to employ their son Leroy and arrangements were made and the property secured. About that time Elder Farnsworth came around, and, learning of this proposition immediately put his personal veto on it. He said that Leroy must not connect with his parents as they would contaminate him. This seems nice talk to me toward people who have stood loyal to the work through all the rebellions and difficulties in Iowa, of which facts you are well acquainted, in fact, much better than I am. As I said before, they stoutly deny that they are in any way changed in their loyalty from what they have always been before.

Elder Nicola was absent when I was there, endeavoring to some way get out of the purchase of the little farm that he had bought, for it would be impossible for him to live on it unless ^{his son Leroy was} ~~they were~~ with them. The particulars were given to me by sister Nicola.

In Battle Creek they have a humble home, which represents nearly all they are worth. It has some fruit trees upon it and they raise a good many chickens and last year paid the taxes on the place from the cherries alone. With what they get from the garden and from the poultry and fruit they get about one half their support. The Conference has been paying Elder Nicola \$7.00 a week, and this gives them their living, with what they get from their place. ^{I think they are entitled to this as a pension in their old age if they never did a lick of work -}

Both Brother and Sister Nicola are practically prostrated with the circumstances connected with this and sometimes nearly out of their minds. When Brother Nicola came home after the action was taken he went

to bed with a high fever and it was a long time before he rallied.

stood stoutly for C. W. Jones when a raid was made on him. Hence I have not
Now mother, I confess I do not know anything any more about *thought it*

right and justice among Seventh-day Adventist officials, but I know prin- *inreassurab*
ciples that you have laid down, some of them at least. When I see a *that*
case like this which seems to me to be oppressive among your old friends *you might*
I feel that it is only right for me to mention the matter to you. I will *speak here*
say there is one thing that has startled and astonished me more of late
than any other time, and that is the cruelty and lack of feeling coming
in among Seventh-day Adventists to Seventh-day Adventists. I cannot un-
derstand this. I see people taking the place which God only occupies
and condemning and domineering over others and I must say that I am
appalled at what I see and what I know. I certainly am glad that no
responsibility of this kind rests upon my shoulders. I will only add
that my heart was touched as I saw the helpless condition of Sister Nic-
ola and knew of the feeble health of Brother Nicola and to all human
appearances to turn them out of their little home and compel them to go
out among strangers seems to me to be very cruel. With this I will
leave the matter.

Your son,

J. E. White