

Office of
NASHVILLE BOOK CO.
Edgefield, Tenn.

Telephone 4063

March 6, 1907.

Eld. W. C. White,
Sanitarium, Cal.

Dear Brother:--

in my letter basket I find an envelope addressed to you pinned to some of your letters requiring answer. I think much contained has already been answered, and I will now endeavor to pick up any stray threads.

In yours of Feb. 19 you suggest plans for my future. In reply to this will say that my present book work will not allow of my leaving my present home this season. P.P.& F. must by my special work as soon as I return from Cal. I now intend to start the 10th, but will have to make several stops along the way, and it may take me nearly two weeks to reach there. As to the future, that all depends. I have thought much about a Cal. location, but cannot think of one that would be suitable for my wife or Sister Robert. There the climate is either chilly and foggy, or hot and foggy. My mind is on Colorado.

Now, W.C., there is something else I want to say. The sweeping criticism of about everything I have undertaken for the work since I came to Nashville does not particularly appeal to me. If you had just included the Morning Star you would have had the whole list. Such reading does not inspire me with frantic courage as to your plans for me in the future that you are making. Let me tell you something: the buildings on Jefferson St. are not unsafe if used for the purposes for which they were built. But when the plans are perverted, and ~~the~~ in their place other plans are introduced that are simply idiotic, I beg to not be included in the criticism of the outcome. I will say more. If S.P.A. had stayed in those very buildings on Jefferson St., Used them for proper purposes, arranged their business according to the location and capacity of the rooms, the institution would be in much better condition to-day. No, thank you, I do not accept your criticisms of my work and plans in Nashville. I did think I would go into explanation of these things, but conclude not to do so. If you ever desire to know WHAT THE TRUTH IS in regard to the matters you mentioned in regard to buildings and my investments, I will be glad to kindly and carefully go over them with you. I really think it would save you for much wrong sentiment.

Now, I am going to say something more. When Bollman was in California he met mother and presented to her his jaundiced views of myself and my work. Events have proved him wrong in the bulk of it. But mother at that time gave her sympathies and confidence to HIM and withdrew them from me. How keenly I have suffered from this I can never express to you. She confided in him her impressions about my connection with Palmer, and Bollman immediately on his return told them to Palmer in a way that forever cut off my influence with him and did more damage than I can tell. I have waited long to see from mother some expression of the confidence and regard she used to have in me and my work, but she has allowed herself to take the poisoned reports of such men as Bollman, and withdraw herself from me entirely. I have hoped to have some opening to rectify wrong impressions, but I shall never undertake to open the way. I have worked and suffered for years. I see now how such service is rewarded.

As ever your brother,

J. E. White
and things will come out
I hope to see you soon
I have worked and suffered for years

in one of your letters

The present S.P.A. building is a frightful place to work in summer. The heat is awful. Employees are often on

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March 13, 1907.

Eld. W. C. White,
Sanitarium, Cal.

Dear Brother:--

Ever since writing you the other day I have felt that I ought to write you again and explain myself. I believe I will try to do so to-day.

In your letter to me you called attention to almost everything I have endeavored to build up in Nashville, and to take its present condition as a warning against such things in the future. Now, Will., if this is fair, then we will cite almost everything father ever built up. The publishing work at B.C., the college, the Sanitarium. Then next comes the pub. work in Oakland, and I can go farther and name the pub. work at Sydney. EVERY ONE of these interests are just as much evidences of failure as are the things I undertook at Nashville. You speak of the office as unsafe, but at R&H in B.C., the floor caved in in the bindery at one time and it was a miracle that there was not awful loss of life.

Now, I will review the Nashville situation. FIRST, as to the location. We did our best, and felt we had done well when we located on Jefferson St. Mother and the whole Conf. Com. came and looked it over, and all were united in pronouncing it as PROVIDENTIAL. But there was no room for the work to be done. We planned and figured and laid out the size of the new building to be made two stories. Then came the matter of board and room for the employees. In meeting of the board the plan was presented BY ME to run up the building two stories more and make the upper two into a boarding house. All felt it was just the thing. When the work was undertaken I made it my BUSINESS to see that the two lower floors were strong enough for anything that could be possible required. The studding was all 2 x 6, and the floor joice 2x8 set less than a foot apart. Heavy girders furnished restings, and heavy posts upheld them, and they were planted on the solid rock. But when we came to third and fourth stories the studding was reduced to 6 in on third story and 2 x 4 for the fourth. The floor joice were also reduced in proportion. The two upper stories were finished according to plan, and the boarding house went in. Then Palmer, who was business manager, made up his mind it was not toney to have the boarding work in the building, and so carried it to the board, that I was overruled, the partitions torn out, and the floors used for other purposes. Now comes the idiotic part of it. The heaviest part of the whole work was the bindery and its tons of printed signatures. It would have been safer to put the presses there. But the type work was put on the SECOND floor, and the bindery on the third. If THIS ITEM ALONE had been reversed the rooms would have been amply strong for their work. The fourth floor was used always for lodging rooms for which a good rental was always paid the office. So you see it was not the building, but the wrong way the building was used.

Now in regard to the building that I put up by the side of it. I wanted a home, and believed that the fourth story of such a building would be above the unhealthy surroundings. I think that was so, but it was too confinig. Others lived there to advantage. Then we had no church, and I saw no other way to get one. But I intended to build but two stories. But then came the food facotry proposition, and BY AGREEMENT with those going into it this building was to be used for this purpose by running it

W.C.W. -2-

up two stories higher. Then, you remember that the chapel was on the second floor. What would the Nashville church have done but for that? By-and-by the building was needed for the work and was bought for that purpose. And then the heavy loads of signatures and the job paper stock room were put on the third floor. Now, let me say, my brother, if the buildings had been properly used and the floors properly arranged for the work, those buildings were far better for the work than the plant they now have. At the time of the removal, when they bought my property for the new buildings, I told Butler that I had no faith in the removal of the office, ESPECIALLY AT THAT TIME. I have not changed my mind.

But why go farther. I cannot condemn my judgment in these things even though they be condemned by you. I feel that they were necessary at the time, and if they had been properly used they would be doing the best of service to-day. I will drop the matter here.

There are other things to be considered, but will take them up on a separate sheet.

As for my coming west, I have been delayed on every hand. I am determined that I shall not go till I have my mind clear as to the way the work will be left here. I WILL NOT go now and leave a lot of matters to worry about. I hope to leave next Monday, and shall have to stop at points along the way, but intend to be in Mountain View by the 25th.

As Ever Your Brother,

J. C. White

W.C.W. -2-

W.C.W. -2-