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see File Record 316
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File

September 30, 1908.

Elder W. C. White,
Sanitarium, California.

Dear Brother:-

In looking over some matters in regard to the colored work in the South, I came across the matter contained in this letter in regard to the color line. Now, there is one paragraph in this letter, which, it seems to me, must have some kind of modification or else it will break down any kind of missionary work that can be done for the white people here in the South. I refer to the second paragraph in the letter.

Now, it has seemed to me as I have talked with Mother in regard to this that the situation has been something like this: that where nothing but our own people are concerned, such a paragraph would apply. But where we are attempting to reach the white people and also the colored people, that if such a paragraph as this should apply, giving the colored people the privilege of coming into the white congregations, it would ruin every effort that could possibly be made for the white people.

Now, in other things in Mother's communications, she has said do nothing that will injure the influence of the work. It has seemed to me that statements like this, referred simply to the conditions that existed in our church ^{local} that among our own people there should not be maintained anything ^a color-line or color-distinction, but that when we come to people that are full of prejudice, that a promiscuous meeting of that kind in some localities of the South would bring mob-violence and all this in its trains, to say nothing of the absolute impossibility of meeting the white people with the truth in our churches where such conditions should exist.

Now, I know when Mother writes, many times there is a certain phase of the subject presented to her and in writing of it she speaks of it in this way. Now, I remember in regard to the church at St. Louis. Strong things were written and they were published in the little book entitled "The Southern Work." Now that referred to the condition of the church in St. Louis where no outside work was being done for either white or colored and there was a feeling of hatred among the white people and that thing had to be broken down. Now, I find that the colored people ^{people} have taken the statements that were there and applied it to every circumstance and condition and it has been very hard to meet. Now, coming in with a paragraph like the one in this letter, you see how difficult it will make it. Will you not talk the

"From a letter dated Jan. 8, 1901, I quote the following:--

"There are some teachers who have taught that no distinction should be made between the white and the colored people. Were their teachings followed, the way for missionary work in the South would be hedged up. Some have flattered and petted the colored people, greatly harming those who with proper treatment and proper education, would have made workers in the good cause of educating others."

The above is a page from a series of selections from mothers writings on the color line. I give also the following quotations from same communications:--

"As far as possible, everything that will stir up the race prejudice of the white people should be avoided. There is danger of closing the door so that our white laborers will not be able to work in some places in the South."

"Do nothing that will close the minds of others against the truth. There is a world to save, and we gain nothing by cutting loose from those we are trying to help. All things are lawful, but all things are not expedient."

Now, W.C., the unqualified statement in the other copy inclosed, regarding the colored people, "If they desire to assemble with their white brethren and sisters, be they few or many, who shall forbid them?" if it should get out among a certain class of people in the South would bring in a state of affairs that I would not like to contemplate. There are many colored people that would enjoy, even the destruction of the work, to force themselves into the congregations and to take the most offensive positions when there. We are over a powder magazine in the South

W. C. White -2-

matter with Mother and ask if there is not such a modification. As
ever,

Your brother,

J. E. White
S.

P. S. Since writing the above, I have found another communication which, it would seem to me, it would help in this connection. It is in regard to teachers teaching among the colored people. In other places I have read where it says there should be schools for the whites and schools for the colored people, but that they should be separate. Now, I want to tell you that the same conditions apply in churches as they do in school work, and if we wish to bring an odium upon our people that can never be removed, the line that is laid down in the communication enclosed, in the second paragraph as mentioned, will surely bring it upon us. Now, I have felt that that was written with the idea of the feeling among church members and not as regards the world on the outside. I wish I could be set right on this and I believe it can be done if you will present the matter before Mother.

J. E. W.