

J. E. W.

Nashville Tenn., September 15, 1902.

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

Dear Mother;-

I was very much surprised and dissappointed to receive a letter from Sister Peck this morning dated September 9, in regard to the one thousand dollars, for which we sent an order on the Foreign Mission Board.

At the bottom of this order we attended an order that Mother was to sign, for the money to be paid to the Southern Missionary Society. I see that my brother got hold of this, and so arranged it that this money is not coming. I cannot understand this. Now I will tell you the situation just as it is.

Brother Butler came from your place to the Anniston camp meeting, and there stated, that you, Mother, positively promised, that that two thousand doll are that was to come from Sister Lockwoods' estate, should go to the mission work in the South. Let me repeat this, Brother Butler came with your positive promise, that this two thousand dollars on Sister Lockwoods' estate, should go to the mission work in the South. I understand, and Brother Butler understood, that you had the handling of this money, and that you had a perfect right to say that it should go to the mission work in the South. This being the case, what is it my brother has to do in regard to it? This I cannot understand.

At the Anniston meeting, as Brother Butler had your positive agreement that the two thousand dollars from the Lockwood estate should go to the mission work in the South, it was there voted that

this one thousand dollars should be passed over to The Southern Missionary Society. They did this for the reason, that the other fifteen hundred dollars coming from the restitution fund, was diverted from the Society, and the Society has not had a dollar from the restitution fund this year.

Now Mother, the Devil is working with all his might to crush the mission work that has been carried forward for seven years by The Southern Missionary Society, ^{and me with it.} If you could have been at the Anniston meeting, and heard what the Principal of the Huntsville school said in favor of the mission schools through Mississippi, you would see that this work is accomplishing much good. If you could have been with me at the colored camp meeting at Jackson Miss., where the workers that had been developed, ^(I refer to colored workers that have been developed by The Missionary Society,) gathered together, and many of our ^{who had accepted the truth} people came together in camp meeting, and a great work was going forward, all of it resulting from the work of the Southern Missionary Society, you would see that this institution has accomplished a great good.

Then if you could have heard the conversation between me and Elder Owen, ^(Elder Owen is the president of the Miss. Conference,) you would have then had your eyes opened, ^{were done by} as to the ~~needs~~ of this Society. I will say that the school work and the mission work of this Society, cannot be done by any state conference in the South. It is simply an impossibility, and Brother Owen acknowledged that if the work that had been done by The Southern Missionary Society in Miss. was thrown onto the Conference, It would bankrupt it in sixty days.

The Society pioneers a work that there is no other provision for in the Denomination. We have now in Miss., two churches to be

organized as the result of our work, and the president of the conference is asked to come and attend to the organization of these churches and formally receiving them into the conference. We told him how we desired to co-operate with the conference, and that when the work was built up in different places on the lines that we work, the whole work was to be turned over to the conference, and there is nothing but the best of feeling now ^{between} ~~towards~~ Brother Owen and me, although there were some misunderstandings for a time. Neither is there any misunderstanding between Brother Owen and the work of the Society.

I will say further, that half at least of the strength of the whole Miss. Conference is made up of colored people who have been brought into the truth by the Society. I will also say, that one half of the tithe paid into the conference, is paid by the colored people, ^{who have been brought out by the Society.} Now while this is the case, the general conference is paying the Miss. conference, two thousand one hundred dollars a year to help it carry on its work, and not a dollar of it goes in for meeting the work of the colored, it is all expended for the white, and even with this, it is all that they can do to get along. Now why not let The Southern Missionary Society have its existence and do its work.² It is one of the great agencies for carrying the truth in the South, and carrying it in fields that will not be worked by any other arrangement in the whole denomination. We might as well believe this and understand it now, as any other time. But I will not go into these points any further.

The real point I have in mind is, that when you promised that this Lockwood money should go to the mission work in the South, and when the South at its meeting voted that this thousand dollars should go to The Southern Missionary Society, why is it that it is now diverted and that another line of work is undertaken before it can come to the Society. I dont like it, and I dont believe its right.

Now I will tell you just how the situation is. We have got ready to open our schools in the South, and were expecting every day to receive this money so that we could get our workers to the school and get it into operation. Now comes this letter, and there is probably a few months of correspondence that must go in before this money is received. Now what shall we do. Shall I simply say to the people in the South, we'll disband our schools for this winter? It amounts to that under the circumstances, for we have held back from calling for means so to let the Publishing Association come in and get all it could, and we have tried to get along in every way until something definite could be decided and settled upon. Now I want to know if any plan can be arranged by you there so that this money shall come to us at once, and so that absolute disaster shall not come to the school work of the Society.² I want to say that this school work, is the back bone of the colored work in the South. And if it is abandoned now, we might as well throw up the work.

Now Mother I have a plan for carrying on the expenses of this work here in the South, which I think will be successful. But it will take some months to get it into operation, and in the meantime our schools will simply be disbanded unless some money can come to carry them forward.

The plan is, ^{my new book,} to take ~~this~~ book, "Story of Joseph", and ~~use~~ that in the North, as Christ's Object Lessons have been used for the other schools. I will give my royalty on this book. I will ~~first~~ say that I will give it on ten thousand copies, and will ~~ask~~ our people, ^{to} take the women and the children that would not naturally be selling the Object Lessons, and ask them to handle this book with out profit, sending all the proceeds in as is done by the Object Lessons. Of course the

Publishing House will have to be paid for its work, as the Southern Publishing Association is not able to carry bills like the Review & Herald, and the Pacific Press did. And of course The Review & Herald, and The Pacific Press, would ~~of course~~ neither of them do anything for this work. They never have, and I do not expect they ever will. So we will try to get along, standing on our own foundation. Now I am willing to prepare some books if necessary, and other things that can be used in this way, and then we will get ourselves out of the fierce opposition that the general conference has to our going to the people and asking them for means. We will open a commercial line of work in this way, that our people will respond to, and give us the help which we need. It is the only way that I see for any success in the work. I shall have the prospectus of this book ready in a little while, and then we shall send ~~around~~ very thoroughly among our people, and we hope to place ten or twenty thousand before the holidays. The book will sell in paper cover for fifteen cents, in board cover for twenty five, and in cloth cover for forty. If we can sell ten thousand copies between now and the holidays, it will give us about fifteen hundred dollars. And this money will support our schools in Miss., this season. You see by the time we pay printing and the binding on the book, and then the postage on the book to the people that buy, it will only leave us an average of about fifteen cents a copy. But you see, ten thousand will make this swell up to fifteen hundred dollars. I hope they can handle twenty thousand, that will give us three thousand dollars, and give us a start towards opening an industrial school here in Tenn. near Nashville. I want to say that we have abandoned the Hildebran school. Brother Shireman has continued his opposition until it is simply useless for us to attempt it at such a long distance. He has a great hold upon the people down there, and his opposition is simply obstinate. there, and his opposition is simply obstinate

He does not receive the testimonies that have come to him, and still carries on his own work. He ~~has~~ now claims that he has come to the top of the heap, since that we have retired from it. He will find something that he is not looking for, as ^{we passed the school over to the} Southern Union Conference, ^{and they are} ~~is~~ passing the work over to the Carolina Conference, and he will come in contact with Brother Johnson again. I will say that the Carolina Conference do not feel very much elated over getting the school under the circumstances, but its the best that can be done. Now Mother I wish that some move could be made on the matters mentioned in this letter, with out a ~~particular~~ of delay, for the schools are to open the 22nd of this month, and we shall try to bridge over in some way until we should hear from this thousand dollars.

As ever, your son,

J. E. White

B. C.