



"Morning Star"

Southern Missionary Steamer.

J. E. WHITE, MASTER.

Vicksburg, Miss., June 22, 1897.

Eld. Geo. A. Irwin,
Battle Creek, Mich.

Dear Brother:--

There is a matter that I must bring to your notice, and that is the utter lack of support to the workers down here. Bro. Hansen has now been ostensibly under the support of the Gen. Conf., and yet for the months he has been in its employ he has been able to draw only \$10.00. I know something of his struggles to make both ends meet, and cannot but feel that there is a wrong somewhere. Lately he has been called to go from Vicksburg to Nashville in the interests of the Med. Mis. work, and has written for money, but not a dollar could he get. He has been very desirous of being on the grounds in time to do something for the work during the Exposition, and made all arrangements to go, expecting money for his R.R. fare at least, but not a dollar has come, and he has been compelled to sell off his furniture and other needed matters to get the money to go to the field where he has been assigned. I will own he has more of a sacrificing spirit for the work than I have, for if I were assigned to any field I would not move till something was done financially to meet necessary expenses. But I do not know as it would be much better if he had remained, for it costs to pay rent and live in Vicksburg.

Then there is the case of Bro. Halladay now in Yazoo City: He wanted to come down here before I started for the north so as to plan the work for the season with me, and he wrote for funds. He is entirely out of money, among strangers, but not a dollar can he get. There is a feature in regard to this that is particularly disagreeable just now. He is engaged to marry Sister Ida Wekell, the girl who has worked for us for some time. She is excellent help in the work, and with him they can do good work in Yazoo City. We start for the north in a few days, and she was to marry him while down here, and both would then return to their field of work. Much of the Bible work and visiting has to be done among the women. A young, unmarried man finds himself in a very disagreeable position many times. When married Bro. Halladay can do much more efficient work. So you see the refusal to send him anything places him in Ida in a very disagreeable position. She will be alone here in Vicksburg, and he has no money to come after her. The plan now is that she will go there to meet him, they will go right from the train and be married and then go with him to his home, or to the room he rents. This is a heathenish way to do, but under the circumstances they can do no better.

I call your attention to these facts, for I think you ought to know how such matters hurt even down here in the south. There has recently been a special addition to the G.C. funds from the special donations. Why should not a share of this, at least, go to these men who are working so unselfishly and economically, and with so little encouragement?

I have felt compelled to write these matters to you, but neither of these men have asked me to do so, nor do they know that I intended to write about it. I simply felt that I ought to do so. The fact confronts us that Bro. Hansen was put on the pay roll at \$5.00 a week months ago, and all the response he has been able to get for his calls for pay has been \$10.00 during the whole time.

Respectfully,

J. E. White