

Office of J. E. White

J. E. White
April 7, 1883

Subscription Book and Music Publisher,

Music Dealer, Printer, and Stationer,

5 West Main Street

Musical Messenger,
\$1 Per Annum.

Battle Creek, Mich., April 7, 1883

Dear Mother:-

Your letter in regard to selling the place received. I had thought that with money as scarce as it is it would better for you to sell even if a few hundreds were sacrificed in so doing. But of course you must do as you think is for the best. It seemed to me that the place is paying nothing of any account. If you had sold one year ago for \$6500, it would have been worth as much as \$4000 now, for you would have had the use of the money one year. With this same reasoning you can as well afford to take \$6500 for the place now as \$4500 two years from now.

I fear it will be a slow place to sell; and it was with all these ideas in mind that I sought an interview with Caldwell and then sent his proposition to Willie. I will, however do all I can to make the place pay. I fear it will be impossible to get any reliable persons to rent the

place. I know of but two persons to whom I would be willing to rent it. Eld. Butler, and A. P. Neary.

They will neither of them take it for some season. It is a very precarious operation to let any one on such a place as that. One season's carelessness will ruin double what would be gained. Fred Mead takes good care of the place, and from all I can see looks out for your interests as well as he knows how. I will write to Caldwell that he can have the place for \$700^{and} us has. I hope he may take it for that and believe you from all care of it.

My business opens with brilliant prospects this spring. My book takes high rank among the best books in the land, and is meeting with the success it deserves. Am thoroughly revising it for a third edition. Now completed shall have one bound as nicely as can be and send to you. Meant to do this a long time since, but the book hardly suited me. In a few weeks shall have the new edition out.

Have dropped every other care and give my whole attention to the book. It is now paying in profits over \$1000 a month. It gives a great deal of work in my counting room. Besides myself I have a competent book-keeper and a short hand writer who uses the writing machine. With all this force it is almost impossible to keep up with business and correspondence. With the large force in the field which I have selling the book this spring I hope to be entirely free from debt within six months.

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I am trying not to neglect my spiritual interests. Emma ^{and} I live alone ^{and} have worship morning and evening. I try to have the influence of this remain through the day, ^{and} go in ^{and} come out among my Lands with candor and sobriety. I find this principle works well ^{and} gains the respect of those in my employ. Am bringing system and order into my business. From my book-keeper down I am arranging matters so that I can know each week just how each part of my business is prospering, ^{and} how much of a balance is left for me. I have high hopes that I can soon arrange my affairs so that I can spend a few months, at least, with you in Cal. The past has been a terribly severe winter. Do not know that I ever passed through one so severe. I do not intend to spend another one in Mich. if I can avoid it.

Willie's visit here was very pleasant to me.

I must say I never met him when we felt such really brotherly relations existing as was experienced on this visit. I think Wilkie is satisfied of the great value and real profit to be had from my book, and will express this idea to you.

It was without doubt a tremendous undertaking to get out such a book with my limited means. I had to run in debt \$10,000 to do it. The Review office furnished much of this and I am paying them at the rate of \$1000 a month. Could have done twice that, but the book came out just when we had such a terribly wet harvest and almost half the wheat in this State was ruined. Then this terrible winter came on and drove nearly all my agents out of the field. The book has been but only eight months. The next eighth month is the cream of the year and I expect to sell twice as many books, or 20,000 copies which will pay me a net income of \$16,000. I hope this will be the case.

There is one thing I wish to speak to you about. The church committee in the singers of this church are trying to improve the congregational singing here. It has been the worst in the city of late. Have met with good success of late, but the organ in the church is not strong enough for the size of the church and the congregation. The church is very large and the organ cannot be heard ten feet from it! We have found a pipe organ, very modest in appearance, which can be hired at

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a low rental - in fact just for 10 per cent of its cost price, and they stand all the loss from wear &c. There are enough who stand ready to throw in something each month so that it will not cost the church funds a cent. But the very name of its being a pipe organ makes some hesitate and desire some advice in regard to it. It is the only kind of an organ that will really steady the singing and be heard in the house. Can you see any objections to it? I think our singing ought to be good - the best of anybody's, and the church ought to all join. But with a weak organ they cannot be held together, and all kinds of jangling is heard in different parts of the house. If you feel like it would like to have you express an opinion on its subject.

But I must close.

Your Son J. E. White

Dear Mother.
I hope your eyes are better than when you wrote
to last had. I am always glad to hear from you and will try to be
near home in answer. In much love for affectionate daughter
Mrs. Frank.

Dear Mother.

As Edson has left me this page

I will try and write a few words to you. I have meant
for some time answer your kind letter in which you
invited me to come and send the envelope with you.

I should like so much to visit you at your home
and spend some time with you, but I could hardly
think of going off to be gone so long and leave
Edson here alone. He has to work very hard and
has many things to try him during the day and
he seems to enjoy coming home in the evening
and finding it warm and pleasant. He thinks it
would be hard for him to live alone all summer.

I do hope some time we can both come and see
you. I want to see you very much and so does Edson.

We had such a good visit with Willie when he was here.
Don't seem as though I ever thought so much of him
before, he is a dear good brother. Yesterday we attended

Samuel Rhodes funeral, he died at Marshall where he was
sent about a week ago they were going to send him to the insane
asylum, Sister Abby was there to attend his funeral. Today about
noon Father Howland died of lung fever. There is quite
a good many sick now mostly lung complaint I have had
cold most of the winter but am feeling quite well now. Pa is some
better than he was in the winter. Bro Jones is quite bad off the Doctors say

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