

Vicksburg, Miss., June 20, 1896.

Dear Mother:--

By the last mail I received from you some copies of letters that were very valuable to me. The letters that have come from you have done very much in regulating my labors, and I can see where the wisdom has come into the work in many ways in consequence.

I fear I am too late to reach the June boat, for the time slipped away faster than I expected, and now there are only five days to get the mail to you from San Francisco. But I will write a little here, and later will write more.

Emma and I are both feeling quite well, and are pleasantly situated on our boat. Our rooms on the upper deck are very pleasant, and they are cool and airy. Then being up so far from the water, I feel that they are as healthful as any rooms we can get in this part of the country. Usually I do not think we shall spend the summers in the South but we have been held in Vicksburg so long, that it will be best for us to go right on with the work, and undertake to break some new territory in the interior. I think Emma will go to Colorado a little later, but I think I shall stay by the work all summer. I find that my health is really as good down here as it is in the north, but I think it will be best for Emma to go to Colorado during the worst months, which are August and September.

The boat is nearly ready for its mission, and newly fitted out in practical condition. I hope to be able to send you a picture of it as it is by the next mail. Our quarters are good and commodious on the lower deck for the workers, and on the upper deck are the suite of rooms for Emma and me, and back of our rooms is a chapel of just about the size of the little church built first in Vicksburg. We have a permanent deck over it, and shall have panels that we can put in for the sides when we need them. Otherwise it will be left open. This deck is very cool at almost all times. Here we shall hold our B<sup>+</sup>ible readings, and our meet-

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ings that we shall hold. I am now arranging for the workers that will go out with us, and hope to start up the Yazoo River in about ten days. Here we shall start out the workers to canvass the places where we stop, and while canvassing they will inquire into the condition of the people, and see who will likely be interested, and where readings and personal work can be held to advantage. Then as the people become interested they will be invited to come to the boat and attend meetings there, or readings, as the case may be. We hope that the work will be so conducted as to interest the people while we get them interested in the truth itself. I think we shall have a good library on the boat, where the people can come and read when they want to, during certain hours, and in this way become interested in the work/ Then we shall have evening school on the boat, so that they can be learning to read and something of arithmetic as they have been doing here in the night schools. Then, I shall have on the boat a lot of simple remedies that I can supply to those who can be helped by them, and take it all around, we hope to have a good influence with the colored people.

Speaking of remedies, I often am called upon to give something that will bring relief to the sick. Two or three days ago an old man, the husband of one of our people here came to me bad off with the bowel complaint that is prevalent here, and with a serious attack of piles. He had had a doctor and he did him no good. I gave him remedies for both difficulties, and I hear to-day that he is getting well very fast, and in a day or two thinks he can get to work again. I found out that his sickness had run them out ~~xxx~~ of everything to eat, and so we assisted him in that way too. There is much of this kind of work we have to do.

To-morrow we are to have our first baptism. There are only three going forward, for the rest were Baptists, and do not yet feel the need of re-baptism. One is the young man we took with us from Ottawa Illinois as we came through, another is a young man who was a barger, but

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when he embraced the truth I gave him work, and he has been growing ever since. He is a sincere young man. The other is a woman who was sick when we returned from the North last fall. We helped her with simple remedies so that she is much better in health, and have been teaching her the truth. When we first met here she was not strict in her morals, and did not know that this was wrong. But she immediately squared her life as soon as she knew of the evil of her way. She used tobacco, and beer, and other unhealthful things, but one by one gave them all up, and has had an excellent experience. We feel sure this is a thorough case of genuine conversion.

I tell you it does me good to see such people taken by the blessing and transforming power of God and made true and honest and their character strengthened.

The work with young men is still going on. One is in the Huntsville school as stated in a previous letter. Two more are preparing to go very soon, one leaves to-night for Battle Creek to take a course there and another has had such a training with us that he is now in charge of the bakery that our Missionary Society started in this place some time ago. All but two of these have been in my employ in my family, and got lessons in care-taking here. And as one goes I take another in to fill the place. I have now two men in mind to fill the places that will soon be made vacant. I know it costs money to work in this way, and it comes hard on me sometimes, but I think it is well invested. I hope to see a company of workers drilled for service that will bring many others into the truth as the result of their work. Of course, I presume there will be some who will not "pan out" as we could wish, but we have to look for that.

Well, I am of good courage in the work, and hope to have some new companies starting up in other localities, and the work spreading.

~~the industry will be a matter of time to take up the North to~~  
Your son,

J. E. White