

August 13, 1896.

Dear Mother:--

I have recently received two letters from you, and they must have come by the same steamer. I am surprised at what you say in regard to not hearing from me for two months. I have a record of the letters written you,--yes, copies of them in my letter book,--and find I have letters written to mother April 15 and May 16, and to Willie May 22 and May 27. I have not failed to write for each monthly mail since that time. I fear some of the letters must have been lost. It is possible they have been delayed and so did not reach you on time, and I hope they have arrived before this time. I am so sorry that such delays have caused you uneasiness. I assure you that I am glad that you have not failed in remembering us each month, for your letters have been a great source of encouragement to us. I have only feared that you were doing yourself an injury in taking so much time in writing when you must have been work with your excessive work.

We were much rejoiced in reading your last letter to know how the Lord had worked for you, and that he has been restoring you, and removing infirmities from you. How good it is that we have a Father who is not only so able, but also so willing to do for us more than we could hope or expect. If it had not been for his sustaining and upholding power toward us in our work, we would have been overwhelmed many times. I hope we are learning to trust him and to rely on him fully.

We are still in the South. We hoped to get away for the North during the heated term, but many things prevented. Most of all we could spare neither the time or the means. The season has been the hottest in the remembrance of all the old settlers here. There has been no let up to it. The heat has been terrible. It is so still, and will probably continue for another month. But before it came the hottest we moved onto the steamer, and it was well we did. Another fortunate thing for us, the water has remained high this season, so it has been good and with little malaria connected with it. The sickly times come when the water becomes low, and the hot sun pours down on the banks that have been covered with water. We are anchored out in the middle of Centennial Lake, which empties into the Mississippi River when the water is high enough, but in low water it is a land-locked lake. It is a mile wide now, or nearly so, and we are in the middle of it. We are anchored at both bow and stern, so that the north and south winds, which prevail most of the time, take us broadside, and blow directly through the rooms. The sun travels the length of the decks, and the decks extend over the cabins about three feet on each deck, and in this way the sun cannot beat into the rooms. On the lake there is nearly always a breeze blowing, even when all is dead on shore, so we have the most comfortable place in all Vicksburg, and have not suffered as others have. If we had been in some of the stuffy houses in town I do not think we could have endured the heat of this season. I know we would have been sick. In the city of Vicksburg they have no underground sewers, only ditches that finally empty into the river. I wonder that there are not more fearful epidemics than there are. Those on land complain of the awful nights, while with us we have a breeze almost every night, and generally are very comfortable. Many times we have to close some of the windows, and sometimes put on an extra spread. But when we are compelled to go to town, or make visits, or attend church, then we catch it. I am doing no work that I am not compelled to do outside the boat during this terrible weather. But I have a great deal of writing to do. I am also working on the new book, The Coming King. I could easily make myself sick if I should drive around as I am used to doing in the north. We find that we have to be very careful as to what we drink. We first filter the water and then boil it, and then put it into our ice chest to cool it for use.

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The best water for use in this way is the river water. When it passes through the process we give it, it is clear and pure and has no disease germs in it. But I have got where I have been obliged to stop drinking ice water. So to-day I have a pitcher of barley coffee, and drink it when thirsty, and my stomach is recovering. Emma is feeling quite well, and enjoys her present home very much. I will send in this mail a picture of the boat if I can get it, so that you can get an idea of how it is built. It was not finished when this was taken, but you can see how it is built. We expect to take the church on board some day and go up the Yazoo River a few miles and hold a grove meeting, and then return. We are allowed to carry 100 passengers by the government which controls all such matters. But this number makes no impression on the boat at all. They are arranging to allow us 150 on excursion permits, so that we can take a goodly company.

It will not be long till we shall make a start of the work up the Yazoo River. Eld. Olsen is arranging to send a couple of workers to join us, who will canvass, hold Bible readings, and do other work of this kind. There will also accompany us some colored workers who will cooperate as the occasion and work demands.

I have been much interested in what you have written in regard to bringing out your new books on the life of Christ. I think you have chosen the place of publication well. I do not want to say anything against either Gen. Conf. Pub. work or the R&H, but I feel sure you will get more intelligent attention to your work from P.P. Bro. Jones has written me about it, and I know he feels the importance of the responsibility of the work, and I know he will do all he can in the matter. The book I am preparing will be brought out by P.P. They will then arrange for R&H to handle it in its territory, each to have a set of the plates and have an equal chance in the sale in its territory.

There have many things transpired that show me that you have been right in your warnings not to put my trust in any man. I have been cruelly deceived many time, but I have tried to place my trust in the Lord alone, and he is bringing it to pass. I have made mistakes, and can see some of them, but I am taking these to him also, and I know he is taking care of these also, and I praise him for his goodness to me. We are looking forward with considerable curiosity and anxiety to our new field of labor, under present auspices, and pray that God will bless our efforts.

Eld. Olsen was with us two days a short time ago, on his way from the Texas camp-meeting. He was much worn, and I could see he was perplexed and troubled. He has had an awful load to carry, and I can see from your letters that he has been carrying more of a load than the Lord wanted him to carry. The Gen. Conf. is in a serious condition, but I hope for the best. They have invested their money in Colorado, Mexico and California sanitariums until they cannot pay their laborers. There is great embarrassment there at headquarters.

You speak of being crippled for money there. We have had that experience from almost the start of the work. The Sabbath-schools donated over \$10,000, and I think \$12,000 during the first two quarters of the year for this special work, but so far as I can make out this has been swallowed up in the general work, and the work here is crippled about as much as ever. There are a lot of things I cannot understand, and shall not try to, for it is not my lookout. I want to have my financial matters so arranged that the work can go on whatever may come.

I was very glad of the matter you sent stating that I had not been writing prejudicial to A.R. Henry. I think it will do good. I have sent copies of it as you desired.

I do not feel like making mush reply to your questions in regard to Mary Clough. I do not know her feelings at all. I know she

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VICKSBURG, MISS.

has passed through quite serious trials and troubles, but what affect these have had on her I have no reason of knowing. I have thought they might have the tendency to show how little there really was to this earth and bring her where she would submit to the Lord, and prepare for a better world. But I feel with you that it is a costly and difficult experiment. Your work is a peculiar work, and I cannot see how a worker not connected with God can do proper work. I fear you would not be willing to put her in such a position of trust as you did when she worked with you before. If her instincts run to the world, how can she understand the heavenly things you have to bring out? "Spiritual things are spiritually discerned." If she is influenced by the powers from beneath how can she handle the work belonging to the powers from above? Will not her connection mark the work she does? I do not say these things in the way of advice, but they are what suggested themselves to me as I read what you wrote. If there was some part of the work that was really mechanical, so that there was not need of bringing thought into it that might mould the work in any way, and by engaging her in that she be have an opportunity to take her stand for the right, and if she did take the proper stand, it would be worth everything. If you were in America, it would not cost so much to try, but how can you bear the expense? But there, I have probably said too much. God will guide in this, and his wisdom will not fail.

Well, I have about reached the limit of the time that I can write this morning. I want this letter to reach you, and there are only seven days before the steamer sails from San Francisco. I may not be able to get the picture in this mail, but will try. Emma joins me in best love to you and all your family, and to W.C. and his wife and Ella And Mabel, and the two youngsters. I see you are deeply interested in them. I wish we could drop in and see you all, but that is impossible

Your son,