

Sunday
Gorham, Aug. 22, 1847

Dear Sister Hastings:

I have recently received an excellent letter from our dear Brother Bates, in which he speaks of his late visit to N. H. and of his interview with Sister Whitecomb and yourself. I am glad that you have had the privilege of seeing and conversing with that holy, humble servant of the Lord. I was also rejoiced to learn of your faith and steadfastness in the truth, through our dear Brother's letter. Nothing can be more cheering to the true believer, than to hear of the prosperity of their fellow pilgrims.

We esteem Brother Bates very highly. His works on the Lord's Sabbath, and our past experience are very precious to us in this time of trial. If we hunger for truth, there we find it brought out in simple style, so that the most unlearned of the "little flock" may feast upon it. We all thank God for the blessed Bible. So too we will thank God for qualifying our Brother Bates so that he has so clearly harmonized our past experience with the Bible, and also so clearly defended the Sabbath question. In the main we fully agree with Brother Bates.

From my first acquaintance with him I have loved him much. And the more I see of his devotedness to the holy advent cause, his caution, his holy life, his unfeigned love for the saints; the more I love and esteem him.

Yours of May 28 was received. We thank you for it; also we thank the Lord, and you his steward, for the \$1.00 you sent us. I should have acknowledged the receipt of it before, but labor, care, etc, has kept me from it. When I first wrote to you and sent the visions I was lame, in debt, and burdened with the duty of publishing for the "little flock." Since that I have been able to publish my humble pamphlet, and am now free from debt, and have enough for our present wants. God has abundantly blessed me with health to labor with my hands. My lameness has not troubled me but little this summer. I have been able to

earn about \$25.00 the past six weeks; and my health is very much improved.
For this I do praise God. I believe it is in answer to prayer.

When we have no special work to do in visiting the scattered saints, I feel it my duty to labor with my hand, so as not to be chargeable to others. This is a privilege to me.

We can lay no certain plans for the future; but we expect to go west this fall. When it is our duty to go, God will make it very plain, and provide friends and means. At present we must remain at Gorham. Ellen has seen in vision that we should go west before the Lord comes; therefore I believe we shall go, but whether it will be in September or at a later period we cannot now decide. We leave all this in the hands of God, and by His grace will try to attend to present duty. Amen.

August 25. The above was written Sunday eve. I had to go to work Monday and Tuesday therefore could not finish, I haste to write a few lines more so as to mail this tomorrow morning.

I have felt like offering an apology for inviting you (a stranger in the flesh) to assist me in paying for the publication of the last vision, as I did in my other letter. At that time I was lame, some in debt, and knew not how to clear myself from the small debt of about \$10.00 and obtain a living. But the Lord has been better to me than my fears, praise His dear name. In view of my then trying situation you will excuse me.

I should choose that Ellen fill this sheet but she is not able. She has been out of health for years, and suffers much at this time; still her faith in God is firm. Your letter was of much comfort to her. She joins with me in much love to all the precious, scattered "little flock" with you or with whom you may meet; also to yourself. Pray for us. And may we keep the commandments of God that we may "enter into life." O! I want to see Jesus and the angels, I want to see that golden city. I want to see all the saints clothed with immortality, dwelling in light. Amen.

From your brother waiting for Jesus.

James White.

P.S. In your letter you say "Sister W. ^[wife] mentions God spoke the day and hour of Jesus' coming," and you inquired "I should like to know if it is to be spoken before we all hear it." To this question I answer by writing Ellen's words that she has just spoken while lying on the bed beside my writing stand. "Tell her that none hear the voice until all hear it. Then every living child of God will hear and know the voice of God as He gives us the day and hour. Then joy and glory will fill every heart." J. W.

Wednesday
Topsham, Sept. 1st.

This letter was laid in the drawer and I intended to mail it last Thursday. On Thursday I mailed a number and I thought this with the others; but while packing up to come to this place I found this letter. Here I shall take the liberty to state to you that my wife has a young son, a week old tomorrow. Why I state this is, I learn from Brother Bates that you are a full believer in Ellen's visions therefore interested for her. She is very well, also the babe. God has been with her in power, for years Ellen has been subject to fainting spells. She has had many the year (last Monday) that we have been married. It was the opinion of our unbelieving neighbors that she would die in one of her faint spells, but to the astonishment of all she has not had a faint spell for two weeks. For myself I had not a fear. I as little expected her death, as I expected the sun to fall to the earth. I knew she would live for God had shown her in vision that her work was not done up for the little flock. This morning Brother S. Howland, at whose table I am writing, received an excellent letter from Brother Bates. He and Brother Gurney were going to Middletown, Conn. to attend a believers' Conference. Brother B. seems in good spirits and doing his work up for the kingdom.

*1st son -
 Henry Nichols,
 born Aug. 26*

Aug 30

Here is a strong band of 13 bold soldiers in this place, in union and in the spirit and power of the truth and love of Christ. Will you or any of the faithful with you write me a letter. If you write within one week direct to this place, if not to Gorham.

James. White.