

Middletown, Conn. April 27, 1848

Dear Brother and Sister Hastings:

It is a long time since I wrote to you or heard from you by letter. Brother Bates shew me a letter from you in which you wish to be remembered to us. God bless you, my dear Brother and Sister for bestowing a thought on us poor pilgrims. We were very glad to hear from you and should have written before but for want of good matter and time. You must excuse us for this deficiency. For six months before we left Maine I suffered more in mind and body than I can show with pen ink and paper. But God has blessed me abundantly since I left Maine. Our Conference which closed Monday morning was deeply interesting. I never attended a better meeting. God gave His servants the truth in a clear light, and they spoke it with solemn power. Brother Bates' principal subject was the commandments. He was able to make the case plain that the only entrance to "life" was by keeping the commandments, and to break them was sure "death" (eternal). B. Matthias was with us on Sabbath. He labored to show that the Sabbath was abolished,--that we were under the bondage of Moses' Law--had fallen from grace etc. etc. All his arguments were fully met but still he would not bow to truth. He left the meeting before it was closed after trying to show that we did not keep the Sabbath, for we were not as strict as God required the Jews to be. All this turned to God's glory, for some who were undecided took a stand on the Sabbath. I have no more faith that God uses B. Matthias in His cause than I have that He uses J. V. Himes or J. Weston. B. M. will not have the truth. Ellen spoke with considerable power of what God shew her in vision concerning the Sabbath. B. M. professed to believe in the vision, but disbelieved the Sabbath. This was not consistent. There are many things of deep interest which occurred during the meeting, but I have not time to state all. The dear children parted with great love for each other. All had a better meeting than they expected. All were blessed. We may stay here

a few weeks and then return to Maine. We expect to have a Conference in Maine this summer. We hope that you will attend with us. We may stay here and in Mass. sometime as we have nothing to call us to Maine more than any other place. All we have including clothes, bedding, and household furniture we have with us in a three-foot trunk, and that is but half full. We have nothing else to do but to serve God and go where God opens the way for us. Ellen and Henry are as well as usual. We should be glad to visit you should the way open.

Shall we hear from you. Direct to Middletown, Conn., Care of E. L. H. Chamberlain. As I may leave here in a few weeks you had better write soon. We are anxious to hear from you. We thank you for your kind letters and what they inclosed. Forgive us if we have neglected you. I hope to be able to do all my duty to God and my dear brethren. Pray for me. If Ellen were here she would join in love, but she is seven miles from this place.

May the grace of God continue with us until we meet in the new Kingdom is my prayers

From your unworthy brother waiting in hope,

James White.