

Battle Creek, Michigan  
March 20, 1880

My Dear Ellen;

I spoke to the students last evening; had great freedom on the subject of faith. Hebrews 11 and 12, chapters. Professors and students expressed themselves greatly instructed and helped and blest. I engaged Elder Fero to speak this morning, But he had a chill last night and Elder Stone filled his place. This afternoon I spoke at the Tabernacle on faith awhile, to prepare to way to answer some objections to your testimonies. In answering the objection that you are told the things you write, the subject opened thus:--

1. If you are told in one case you are in twenty, in one hundred in all, and God shows you nothing.
2. To suppose you could write so much strung along for a period of thirty-four years, including all the private testimonies, and all your volumes, and learned your personal testimonies from the lips of others, and what you have written in your volumes from reading other books, while traveling, raising a family, and constantly in meeting or on the cars, makes you a wonderful woman, with a memory long, and a philosophic mind beyond any person that lives. Here I struck a strong point, which the congregation felt.
3. That you was not educated and a large portion of this time you had been feeble, and had not naturally a philosophical mind in framing the beautiful theories presented in your writings.

I now see more fully than ever before why the Lord chose one in feebleness, and without a mind strengthened and disciplined to reason by study. From these facts will be our strongest appeal to the people. This I can use with power in finishing Life Sketches.

I stand in doubt about our attending the campmeetings. It is very important that we should get out Volume Four this summer. The campmeetings are too hard for [us] to continue one each week. This work is placing us lower in health and strength each year. I draw back in my feelings. I doubt the propriety of your (returning ?) so soon. It costs terribly. And as Edson is coming here, I

should rather go to California than to stay here/ or go to the campmeetings. I cannot think of going the rounds of the campmeetings this summer. I think I shall go to Colorado about the first of May, to remain there and write, unless I go to California.

At this point, Henry takes the pencil, as you will see by the writing. Since meeting, Brownsberger, Stene, and Gage have been in, and they all think that I have struck very important evidence in favor of your testimonies. It seems that this has opened just now as I had reached a place in Life Sketches where this should come in.

I have fixed up "Mother's Influence" in good shape, think I shall not do much more writing at present, as my head and stomach trouble me; and I have had some symptoms today that I do not like.

I have spent much of this day in reflection and prayer, and I find sweet peace of mind in deciding to do less, and to do my work better. I wish you would consent to spend the summer with me in Colorado, with good help, such as Lucinda, Mary Ann and Clara, and Henry, we could do a great amount of good work. I now decide not to give the least encouragement to attend a single campmeeting this season. Tomorrow I shall write an article upon the subject for the Review.

This going the rounds of the campmeetings until I am nearly dead, then coming to Battle Creek to meet great responsibilities, and to labor for a backslidden church, as I have last fall and this winter, and then undertaking to write for our papers, get out sermons and books, is simply crushing my life out of me. It disqualifies me to always be in a state of mind to speak and act as I should. You having seen this, not only with your natural eyes, but as God has shown it to you, will not call my decision in question. I have so much on my hands that others, who have but little to do, or to think of but their personal interest, outwit me in business and I lose financially. I am coming to my senses. Whatever course you may take, my plans are laid. I had rather take my recreation in Colorado while there is something left of me, than after another serious pull-back. My head, stomach, and heart, are

entitled to a little rest, and by the grace of God they shall not be cheated out of it.

I will let these lines rest till we get the mail, when I may write more. Sunday, 21. Have received a letter from Willie in reference to the foundry and matters in general at Oakland, and some relief, but as yet get no news as to deductions of fare from Omaha, and whether I am expected to write for the Signs. These probably will be noticed in time.

Today my mind has been greatly exercised as to the future, and I have finally come to the following conclusions:

1. That we should give such men as Canright, Burrill, Butler, and Littlejohn, a chance to run the campmeetings one year. This would give some old sores a good chance to heal or to break out worse than ever; <sup>then</sup> ~~these~~ next year our testimony and influence would be better prized and do more good.

2. The time to help the Pacific Press and the cause generally on the coast, <sup>there</sup> is/ during 1880-1, and no one can have a stronger influence ~~than~~ with the blessing of God than yourself and husband.

3. Edson is coming to Michigan. Will and Haskell are going to Europe, and who will be left as a head until Haskell shall return? I therefore, in the presence of Elder Stone, Prof. Brownsberger, Elder Smith, Brother Gage and Brother Amadon, decide and dictate, as Brother Gage writes, that you should remain on the Pacific Coast, and I should join you some time in May, to remain on that coast until a year from next May.

By that time, the Signs will be self-sustaining from subscribers in the Pacific Coast states and territories, and we hope things generally would be greatly improved. Meantime, with such help as Sister Hall, we could do a large amount of writing, and preparing matter already written and published, for the press.

(Signed) James White

per W.C.Gage

We, the undersigned, having heard the foregoing, relative to the campmeetings, and the work on the Pacific Coast, express our approval of the same, and recommend its adoption if it does not conflict with the best light you have, and your own impression of individual duty.

(Signed) Uriah Smith

C.W. Stone

S. Brownsberger

George W. Amadon

William C. Gage

H.W. Kellogg