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A STORY OF MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH ELLIE G. WHITE DURING
THE FIVE YEARS THAT I CARRIED THE WORK OF THE
PRESIDENCY OF HEALDSBURG COLLEGE

By M. E. Cady

Helpful Counsel on Dietetic Lines

I had been president of Healdsburg College only one year, having begun my work there in 1899. For me it was a new line of educational work, and I found Sister White very helpful to me as I counselled with her and she with me with reference to the solution of some serious and difficult problems that arose from time to time. She visited the College quite frequently, sometimes staying for two or three days. At one time she stayed about a week, bringing with her two or three of her secretaries to carry on her work while there. During that time she occupied a seven-room cottage where she continued her work and spent some time visiting the school.

She always spoke to the church when she was present on the Sabbath, and at times she would speak to the college faculty and at student meetings. One time she was present during the annual college board meeting, and gave counsel relative to the strengthening of our industrial work at the College. The Board was considering the question of eliminating some of the industries, because they did not meet expenses, but Sister White met with the Board and encouraged them to continue their effort which was a gain to the School in helping the students to learn how to work with their hands, even though the ledger account might show something of a loss.

I felt free to talk with Sister White in regard to problems, and she always was very sympathetic in her attitude. I remember of speaking to her about the dissatisfaction of some of the young men regarding the diet. Some of the young men sixteen to eighteen years of age were not Seventh-day Adventists, although their parents were members of the church. They had been sent to school by their

parents with the hope that the children would become Seventh-day Adventists.

These young men were used to eating all kinds of food. Meat, pepper, tea, coffee, were things that they had used before coming to school, and they were quite dissatisfied not to have access to these things that they were used to eating. They told me that the food served in our dining-room tasted like sawdust, and they wanted the privilege of going down to the restaurant in the city and having a good square meal.

I asked Sister White what I should do in cases of this kind where the young men were not Adventists and were used to eating food of the kind that we did not serve. She replied, "You should be very sympathetic and kind to them. It is a hard situation and a very trying one to the boys. They are to be pitied. We should love them and, if possible, lead them into the truth. This their parents are praying for, and we should do all we can to help their prayers to be answered."

I was a little surprised at her reply. It was so sympathetic and kind. But she gave a little further counsel: "Of course, we could not allow them to go down to the restaurants and eat, but the food in our dining-room should be very palatable, and they should have all the good food that we can supply them; plenty of butter, milk, eggs, and vegetables, so that there will be no lack of good food."

To her suggestion I replied that we did not serve butter in the college, and she was greatly surprised. In fact, we did not serve eggs very liberally. The board had taken action two or three years before to eliminate from the diet butter and eggs, as Sister White had given instruction in her writings indicating that the time would come when butter, milk, and eggs could not be used, because of animals being so diseased. To this she replied, "The Board has run away ahead of the Lord. I have stated in my writings that the time would come when animals would be so diseased that it would not be safe to use their flesh as food, but that time has not yet come. Butter, cream, milk, and eggs are still to be served, and we are to serve them until we find substitutes to take their place."

I had made an effort the year before to have butter and eggs served, but

the Board did not yield. They spoke of the time coming to do away with these foods produced by animals, and were not willing to reverse their action, for they felt that that would be a step backward.

Sister White then strongly affirmed that we should have these foods on the table, and it was not long before they were there. She was able to bring about the change which was very much appreciated by the students, and a much better spirit came into the school and much more cooperation on the part of these young men that were dissatisfied.

I have had the opportunity of meeting Sister White not only at the College and in connection with the problems we had to solve, but also I was in her home at various times. I have eaten at her table when she was present, and always she was solicitous of those who were her guests at the table. She would inquire as to whether I was being properly served and getting all that I needed. Her table was well provided with food. I never saw any butter on the table, but there was always a large bowl of cream.

I have stayed in her home as a guest and had chats with her in the parlor over various problems in educational work. She was very much interested in the prosperity of Healdsburg College which she helped to establish in March, 1882.

Experience With A. T. Jones

It was while I was president of Healdsburg College that Elder A. T. Jones came West, and for three or four years was president of the California-Nevada Conference. During this time he was also president of the Healdsburg College board. He visited the college frequently and gave many helpful talks on the subject of education. It is to be regretted that he failed to appreciate the instruction and counsel given by Sister White relative to his work as president of the Conference. He spoke to Sister White about having the 1903 General Conference at Healdsburg at the close of the college year in 1903, and she said it might be a good plan; she had not given it thought. He reported to his committee that Sister White was in favor of the plan. Later he received a letter from Sister

White stating that as she had given the matter further consideration she felt it would be better to have the General Conference in Oakland, California, where it would be possible for the people of the city to benefit from the meetings, and a larger influence would go out from there than from Healdsburg College. Elder Jones was very disappointed, and began to question what part of Sister White's counsel was to be depended upon. To him personally she had indicated that it might be well to hold the meeting at Healdsburg. Now in a letter she states that it is better to hold it at Oakland.

This questioning continued until finally we were gathered in a Healdsburg College board meeting out under a big oak tree in front of the college dormitory. At this time I was president of the board, but A. T. Jones was still a member. After the business of the meeting was completed, I told the board that I had received two letters recently which I wished to read to them. No one knew of these two letters which I had received from Sister White only two or three weeks before. I read both of these letters without any comment. In these letters Sister White spoke of two charges that had been made against me as president of the college. First, I had misappropriated college funds. Second, I had overdrawn my personal account. In these letters she stated that she had no light on these matters, but she was quite concerned as she did not like to hear reports indicating any wrong action on the part of any of those connected with the college, especially those who were called upon to look after the administration of college matters. There was a period of silence after the letters had been read, and finally one of the members of the board arose and said, "I am the guilty man. I supposed that what I said was true. I had been told this by those who ought to know, and who were connected with the business department of the College, and so I had supposed that it was the truth that I had been told with reference to Professor Cady. Sister White was in my home a few weeks ago, and during conversation with her I told her of this matter. I am sorry that I ever mentioned it, and I ask Professor Cady's forgiveness for meddling with things that were not my concern.

After the board meeting adjourned, Elder A. T. Jones and I walked from under the oak tree into the dormitory, and as we were walking along the way Elder Jones said, "Now, Professor Cady, keep those two letters right together. Never let them become separated. There is an example of what is testimony and what is not testimony." I wondered somewhat at his remarks, but we were both in a hurry and went on our way, and I said nothing further to him about the matter; but it was not long before I knew that Brother Jones was losing his faith and confidence in the Spirit of prophecy, and was listening to those who were opposed to the Spirit of prophecy. It was at this time that Doctor Kellogg was in difficulty with the General Conference regarding the medical work, and Sister White was doing all she could to help him to see his mistakes and to relate himself in a more favorable attitude so that there should not come a break in the denomination between the medical and the evangelical phases of the work. She had met this situation at the time of the General Conference held in Oakland in 1903, but there was a great deal of tension over the matter, and the General Conference closed with things in a very strained condition.

A little while after the close of the General Conference in Oakland, Elder Jones began to try to influence students of Healdsburg College to go to Battle Creek to take the medical course in the American Medical Missionary College. I was surprised at his attitude in this matter. Elder Jones went over to see Sister White and told her that he believed Doctor Kellogg could be saved, and that he had a burden to go to Battle Creek and connect with the Sanitarium as chaplain, and felt that by this close connection with the Sanitarium he would be able to help Doctor Kellogg to see things in their proper light. As he talked with Sister White regarding this matter, Sister White told him that she saw no light in his going, that she had been given a representation that indicated that it was not best for him to think of going. She told Brother Jones that she saw him in the mist and the fog, and could not give him favorable counsel regarding his suggestion to go to Battle Creek to connect with the Sanitarium.

Brother Jones had already received a letter from Doctor Kellogg earnestly soliciting him to come to the Sanitarium, and offered to make him president of Battle Creek College, which he was planning to reopen shortly. Brother Jones fell to this temptation and went to Battle Creek, and as a result of his connection there he went farther away from the light and counsel of the Spirit of prophecy, and wrote me a letter telling of the good Week of Prayer they had just gone through what a wonderful time they had had in their meetings, how the Lord was blessing, etc. In closing his letter, he said, "Brother Cady, you remember those two letters you read at the board meeting. Will you please send me copies of those two letters I often have letters or communications that come to the board or members of the board with which I am connected, and so I would be pleased to have you send me those letters."

I wrote to Brother Jones, telling him I had just packed my goods to go to Walla Walla College, and that I did not find the letters. I met Brother Jones a few weeks later at the General Conference in Takoma Park, Washington, D. C., in 1909. Doctor Kellogg and Brother Jones were strong in their opposition to the General Conference, and I could see that he had gone farther and farther away, and was fighting the denomination through Doctor Kellogg.

While at the General Conference Elder Jones asked me about those letters, and said, "You wrote me that you did not find them when you packed. Now you will unpack soon after returning, and probably you will find them, and I should like to have you send me the letters." I did not say whether I would or not, but I felt then that he wished to make a wrong use of them. On unpacking, I still was unable to find the letters. I did not write to Brother Jones, but in a few weeks he wrote to me and said, "You probably have found the letters, and if you do not have time to copy them just send them on to me, and I will copy them and have them returned." I wrote and told him I had not found the letters and that I was feeling rather fearful about his situation. I knew he went to Battle Creek with the idea of helping Doctor Kellogg into the right way, but I felt that Doctor Kellogg

had influenced him to go the wrong way, and I told him I was hoping and praying that he would not yield to these wrong influences.

I received no further word from Elder Jones, but within six weeks time his little pamphlet, "Some History, Some Experience, and Some Facts," came out, and in it he referred to the two letters that Sister White had written to me regarding my relationship to the College, and raised the question, Which letter is the Spirit of prophecy, and which is not?

Brother Jones never talked to me personally about what he was going to do. When the General Conference made reply to Elder Jones' leaflet, the two letters were in the reply. They had been taken from the vault of Sister White's writings and it was clearly shown that Elder Jones was mixed and confused and had made many statements about matters that would not stand investigation. He later wrote another leaflet in which he said that if the third letter had been produced, he would have been vindicated in all that he had said. Later I met Brother Jones, and I said, "There was no third letter, Brother Jones. I only received the two you heard read." "Well," he said, "I guess I was mistaken; and, without any further explanation, dismissed the matter. I speak of this matter of Elder A. T. Jones because it was while he was president of the Board that I was president of Healdsburg College.

An Experience in School Discipline

I had one further experience at Healdsburg College that was the most difficult and trying experience I ever had at any time in connection with any institution. One of the members of the College board had been president of the board and also president of the California Conference. While I was president of Healdsburg College this former president of the board was still a member of the board. He had a son about eighteen years of age attending the College, and this son was used to having his own way and was very careless in his conduct, and very determined to have his own way while attending the school. When the students would observe him breaking the regulations they would warn him that he would better be careful or he would be turned out of the College, to which he said,

"As long as my father is on the board they can't turn me out of the College."
And so he persisted in his wrong doing.

Personally, I did what I could to help the young man. Other members of the faculty did the same. But he persisted in having his own way, and during the second year of my presidency the faculty took action to dismiss him from the College. This was done rather unexpectedly to the young man, but we had done all we could, and felt that the time had come to take the action. The young man was very angry, and very much incensed against me and other members of the faculty because of this action. He was so angry and so wrought up that he would come over to the college dormitory after dark and sit down under a tree and smoke and then shout to the boys who lived in the two upper floors of the dormitory. (The girls lived on the first two floors) He continued this disturbance, and it became a real problem.

I went to the father and told him that his boy was creating disturbance, and asked the father to take the boy in hand and stop this disturbance that was going on from night to night. The father was very put out over the matter and laid all the blame on the president and faculty of the College for his son's actions. I did the best I could to get the father's cooperation, but he would not cooperate. I told him that the boy must be taken care of; we could not have this continue. He said, "Take the law to him if you dare. You will wish you hadn't," I said I had no thought of taking the law to him, but I had come over to ask his cooperation in taking care of his son. Again he laid the blame on the president of the College and the faculty, saying that if the boy had been treated right he would be all right, and that we were now suffering for our own wrong doing." I parted from him, saying, "If you do not take care of your boy I believe I shall have to advertise him before the whole College as an undesirable." He retorted, "Do that if you dare. You will wish you hadn't."

I did not know just what to do. This was my second year of college presidency and I did not want to make a mistake. Two or three days passed and I was

called over to St. Helena to attend a Pacific Union College committee meeting. A brother took me over with his horse and carriage, and while passing Sister White's home I noticed Brother and Sister Druillard, two missionaries from South Africa, on the lawn of Sister White's home. Brother Druillard was doing some carpentry work repairing furniture. I said to my driver, "I will stop here and meet these missionaries. You drive right on to the Sanitarium. It is only a little way farther and I will walk up the hill."

I had a few words with the missionaries and Mrs. Druillard then said, "Brother Cady, would you like to see Sister White?" I told her I had no thought of that. She said, "Sister White might want to see you. I will go in and see." She returned in a few minutes and said, "Yes, Sister White wants you to come in." I went to the home, and the one in charge showed me a seat in the parlor and said Sister White would soon be down. When she came we greeted each other, and I asked Sister White how she was feeling. She said, "Not so well this morning. I didn't sleep very well last night. How is the College getting on?"

I told her we were getting along pretty well, but were having a little problem to solve that was somewhat perplexing. Then I told her that we had turned out the son of the former president of the board in whose home she frequently stayed when she was at Healdsburg. She replied immediately, "It is well that he is out. He is not fit to be in the College."

I then thought I would tell her a little of the attitude of the father. She said, "The whole situation was opened before me last night, and I have here written out what the Lord has shown me regarding the situation in that home. I will read it to you." She read the manuscript (Letter 166, 1901), fresh in her own writing, and said, "I will have it copied and sent over in a few days."

In this message she compared the home of this brother to the home of Eli, and said that the trouble was in the home of this former president of the board because his son had not been restrained. He had his own way and was bringing sorrow upon sorrow, and it would grow as time went on. "Your son is not worthy of a place under your roof. If you have any place give it to somebody worthy."

She then went on and named the sins the son was committing, closing with theft and adultery. Then followed a statement: "The time has fully come when the boy should be exposed before the entire school." That was what I was hesitating over. I did not know whether I should take that step or not. After concluding the letter she said, "I will see that this is sent over soon." She mailed it to Elder E.J. Hibbard, the pastor of the church and head of the Bible department, asking him to call the family together and read the letter and leave a copy with them. This he did, and while he was reading that part of the letter naming the sins of which the boy was guilty, and came to the last two--theft and adultery--the father raised his hands and said, "O, it can't be so. It can't be so." The son said, "Hold on, father, it is all so. Sister White knows what she is talking about. She is no ordinary woman." And while the son was angry because he had been turned out of school, yet he had enough manhood left to acknowledge the truth of the statements in the message.

I thought the father would be over and confess his mistakes the next day, but he did not appear for two or three days. Finally he came and said, "Brother Cady, I want to see you. When can I have an opportunity?" I said, "Tomorrow morning, after chapel." He was there and when I asked him to come up to my office, he said, "No, come with me." So I walked with him out of the front door and there stood his boy with two packages in his hands. He said, "Professor Cady, these are what I stole from the College store, fountain pens and other things, and I am returning them to you." I told the boy he was doing the manly thing, and I was glad to see him straightening things up.

The father said the son didn't want to bring them because he preferred to slip them in without your knowing he took them, but I told him you would treat him right. I told him I was glad he brought them to me, and that I was sure he hadn't a better friend than I. He went away and when I would meet him on the street he was very respectful, whereas before he had been very much put out and would not speak to me.

After this message had been read to the parents, it was my duty to expose

the boy before the school, which I did the next day. In the afternoon of that same day I met him on the street between the College and the dormitory and he said in very loud tones, full of anger, "I would like to know what you have been bawling me out before the College for, I have been practicing up for this;" and he rolled up his sleeves and said, "I'm ready to give you what you deserve." "All right," I said, "go ahead." "If you ever do it again, I will," he replied. I said, "I hope I shall not have to. I hope you will take the counsel you have received and become a man."

He later sought opportunity to talk with me, which I granted. When he arrived at my office he said, "Professor Cady, I have played the fool long enough. I want to be a man. What can I do to straighten things up?" I said, "It will take time. You will have to show by your life that you really have made a change." He said, "I am leaving tomorrow morning, going out to work on a farm." That was the instruction given--that he should leave home and earn his living. He told me where he was going and I said, "I know the folks, and if I hear a good report all summer long, you may write a letter to the faculty next fall and ask to be admitted to the college. I heard good reports all along during the summer. He wrote his letter in the fall and the faculty granted him the privilege of reentering the college. He was rebaptized and attended school two years longer during my presidency, and we couldn't have asked for better cooperation than he gave during those two years.

I have always believed in the Spirit of prophecy, but I believed in it still more after having this personal contact with the prophetic gift.

Takoma Park, Washington, D.C.

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