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January 11, 1934.

2047 Mountain View Place
Pasadena, California.

Dear Sister

Elder W.C. White has asked me to make search for the quotation from the "Testimonies" for which you ask.

You say the thought in the desired passage is as follows:

"In the time of the purification of the church when the famine and the pestilence are in the land, the Lord will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi. Then it goes on to say that during that time the people of God will only have enough to sustain life, but not to satisfy, and this is to prepare them for the time before them."

I am inclined to think that you have in mind a passage found in "Testimonies," Volume 1, page 206. This passage with its context indicates that we are not to discipline ourselves with an inadequate supply of nourishing food, with the thought that this will prepare us for the time of trouble, during which time "stern necessity will require the people of God to deny self, and to eat merely enough to sustain life." The beautiful assurance is given there that under these circumstances, God will in a special way "impart His strengthening power," to "sustain His people."

Were such a passage as you suggest to be found following an allusion to Mal. 3:3, it should be found by looking up that passage in the "Scriptural Index," which is in the front part of the "Index to the Writings of Mrs. E.G. White." But it is not to be found there, so I think you have blended in your mind two distinct passages.

I shall be surprised if you can find such teaching as you have thought you remember. I have heard some advocate the advisability of greatly limiting our food in quantity and quality, with the thought of doing this as a preparation for the time of trouble, and that I should judge was the position taken by those to whom the testimony referred to above was written. The opposite principle is well set forth in a letter that Sister White wrote in 1906, as follows:

"The food provided (for the 5,000) was not especially inviting, and by many would be considered coarse. This does not signify that we should confine ourselves to a coarse fare, when Providence supplies us with better. But when necessity demands, and the blessing of the miracle worker is upon the food, even the coarsest fare will become palatable. To those hungry men, the meal composed of barley bread and fish was the most palatable they had ever eaten." From a letter written, September 14, 1906, B-304-1906.

Sincerely your brother,

D. Robinson

DER:lfw.