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November 8, 1938

Pastor Alfred F. J. Kranz  
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Cooranbong, N. S. W.  
Australia

Dear Brother Kranz:

Returning from the Fall Council I found your letter of September 15 in which you make inquiry on two points. The first is in regard to the following statement taken from page 29 of a pamphlet written by J. N. Loughborough, entitled "The Sealing Message."

"If there is still a doubt of the resurrected Sabbath keepers being numbered with the 144,000, consider the following from Sister White's words in 1909. At the General Conference in 1909, Elder Irwin had a stenographer accompany him in a call upon Sister White. He wished to ask her some questions, and have an exact copy of the words of the questions, and the exact words of the replies. Among other questions was this one: 'Will those who have died in the message be among the 144,000?' In reply, Sister White said: 'O, yes, those who have died in the faith will be among the 144,000. I am clear on that matter.' These were the exact words of question and answer, as Brother Irwin permitted me to copy from his stenographer's report."

I have heard Elder White declare that this is in harmony with what he had heard from the lips of Mrs. White on several different occasions when she was asked regarding this matter. We do not have a copy of the interview referred to above on our files, so we are unable to verify the statement, but we accept it as being in harmony with Sister White's views.

I have also heard Elder White say that in response to a question as to who would be in the 144,000, she had replied to the effect that it would be those who have sacrificed and suffered as Christ and his disciples sacrificed and suffered. We recognize that such verbal statements, quoted by others, do not carry the authority that her published writings carry.

From this statement, however, it would seem that it was Mrs. White's opinion that the 144,000 are a group who have had a special experience in the third angel's message, rather than an entire company who might be living at a certain time or place.

> The only published statement directly bearing on the point mentioned in Elder Loughborough's pamphlet, which he also cites, is found in "Early

Writings." After describing her view of being on another world, Mrs. White says:--

"I begged of my attending angel to let me remain in that place. I could not bear the thought of coming back to this dark world again. Then the angel said, 'You must go back, and, if you are faithful, you, with the 144,000, shall have the privilege of visiting all the worlds and viewing the handiwork of God.'"

This assurance given to Mrs. White in vision, may be supplemented by a similar assurance revealed to her regarding one of the early believers in the message. In a letter of condolence written to Brother Hastings, on the occasion of his wife's death, she wrote: "I saw that she was sealed and would come up at the voice of God and stand upon the earth, and would be with the 144,000. I saw we need not mourn for her; she would rest in the time of trouble, and all that we could mourn for was our loss in being deprived of her company."--Ellen G. White Letter 10, 1850 <

At one time, as Elder W. C. White relates, this question was pressed upon Sister White when she wished to be thinking and writing about something else, and she replied that we should wait until we get there and then we would know all about it. Perhaps this would be good counsel for us now.

In 1901 Sister White mentioned the question of who would constitute the 144,000 as one which should not become the center of controversy, for it was not vital to us. You will find this statement on page 12 of the inclosed leaflet.

You ask also regarding a quotation on Melchizedek which is credited to Sister White. This statement was not made by her. It must be that a mistake has been made in assigning the authorship to this paragraph. There is a statement, however, in the Review and Herald of February 18, 1890 from Mrs. White's pen, relative to Melchizedek. This is as follows:--

"It was Christ that spoke through Melchizedek, the priest of the most high God. Melchizedek was not Christ, but he was the voice of God in the world, the representative of the Father. And all through the generations of the past, Christ has spoken; Christ has led his people, and has been the light of the world."

I am not able to tell you who wrote the paragraph which you have sent to us for verification, except that it was not written by Ellen G. White. Undoubtedly, someone, in grouping choice statements on the subject of Melchizedek, has placed this with a statement from Sister White's pen, and the credit was thought to cover both.

We were greatly encouraged by the reports which Elder Rudge brought to us at the Fall Council, of the progress of the work in the great Australasian Division. If his plans carry, he will call at my office this morning, and I am looking forward to the pleasure of showing him about in our large manuscript vault and of discussing with him a number of matters of importance.

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A. F. J. K. - 3 -

It is always a pleasure to be of service to those who are heading up our important Bible departments in our schools.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Secretary  
ELLEN G. WHITE PUBLICATIONS

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