

Reed

Did Mrs. White Say Anything About Franklin D. Roosevelt?

"To all who have a desire for truth I would say, Do not give credence to unauthenticated reports as to what Sister White has done or said or written. If you desire to know what the Lord has revealed through her, read her published works. Are there any points of interest concerning which she has not written, do not eagerly catch up and report rumors as to what she has said." 5 T, page 696

If all of our brethren would heed the excellent counsel given by Mrs. White regarding giving credence to "unauthenticated reports," a number of false rumors as to some alleged sensational predictions by her would die a natural death, instead of spreading over the land like wildfire.

During the past two or three months numerous inquiries have come to the "Elmshaven" office regarding a report that Mrs. White made a prediction that the present incumbent of the national Presidential chair would be the last president, or that he would become active in enforcing the Sunday laws. One has heard that Mrs. White was in a picture gallery, and seeing the name under a picture of Theodore Roosevelt, remarked that she had been shown that that would be the name of the last president. Another has heard that she once met the future president in a crowd, and pointed him out. Another has "learned" that she made a remark in question, on seeing a picture of him as a young man in a family album in the home of a friend; another that she saw the picture on the wall of a certain home several years ago. It is reported that she was instructed that the last president would have a withered arm. We have been told that one of our missionaries in Mexico recently wrote to some one regarding the incident; and also that the report was made public by one of Mrs. White's former secretaries.

Some say that this report is being circulated by "leading ministers," as well as by lay members.

We wish to assure our brethren and sisters that there is absolutely no foundation for such a report in any of its forms. Had Mrs. White made such a prediction years ago, it is evident that it would have produced a sensation at the time it was said, and would not have lain dormant and forgotten until the present.

In addition to questions regarding alleged oral statements by Mrs. White, there are also floating about many baseless alleged quotations for which no authentic source can be given. Usually these are of a sensational nature, such as can be found nowhere in her writings, nor can they be substantiated by the Bible. As an instance of this sort of rumor, reference might be made to an alleged statement to the effect that the close of probation will be marked by a supernatural darkness such as enveloped the cross at the time of the crucifixion, and that by this sign God's people may know that probation has closed.

For this question, reference is sometimes given to the Review and Herald for 1884. One inquirer cited us to the Review for June, 1884. And the other day a young man showed us the quotation in his note book, with a reference to the Review for June 18, 1884. We showed him from our file that there is no Review with such a date.

- D. E. Robinson -

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St. Helena, California.
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