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W. C. WHITE, Secretary

A. L. WHITE, Asst. Sec.

The Ellen G. White Estate

(Incorporated)

182
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Length of dress
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"Elmshaven" St. Helena, California

March 15, 1936.

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General Delivery
Redding, California.

Dear Sister

Your letter of March 1, addressed to Elder W.C. White, has been handed to me with the request that I send you the information which you desire. Elder White is devoting almost all of his strength and energy to the preparation of his articles "Sketches and Memories of James and Ellen White" now appearing in the Review.

You ask if we have any unpublished manuscripts in regard to the length of woman's dress, and you tell us that some say that the dress should be no shorter than two inches from the floor, and others, six inches. You also tell us that you want to do what is right in regard to this.

Now I think for an understanding of Mrs. White's statement in Volume 1 of the "Testimonies for the Church," we must take into consideration the circumstances which called for that particular instruction. You are doubtless aware of the fact that at the time, much of what was written relative to dress in Volume One, woman's dress was very many times trailing on the ground and often times was extended with hoops, etc. Definite counsel was given regarding a beneficial dress which would keep the garments from trailing in the mud and filth of the streets and at the same time clothe the body in a satisfactory way.

You can see the instruction given at that time was urging that the dress be shorter than the prevailing custom. Mrs. White tells us plainly that no specific length of dress was given to her in vision.

By turning back to the documents written at the time, we find that Mrs. White was shown three types of dress,--one which was the prevailing style with the long trailing skirts; another was the American costume which was very, very short, and the third, the modest dress, the skirt clearing the filth of the streets and sidewalk under all circumstances.

When Mrs. White and her sisters in Michigan endeavored to work out a style of dress which would be acceptable and meet the