

Sanitarium, Cal.,

Dec. 30, 1906.

20 Helen Ave.,

Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Brother

Just a few lines to apologize for not answering your letter of December 9 in time. During the last few weeks I have had a tremendous crush of business. Have been buried miles deep under work, and do not know when I can dig out.

The best instruction I have ever found regarding the selection of church officers is that contained in the Scriptures. It points out that they should be examples to the flock, therefore we should endeavor to choose for church officers those men whose example will lead to piety and to consecrated service. We can not find perfect men; therefore we can not secure perfect examples, and for this reason some churches choose no officers at all. It is my conviction, Brother Brothers, that it is better to have a church well officered by the most active men who are devoted, by the most devoted men who are active, by men who come most nearly to fulfilling the specifications mentioned in the eighteenth chapter of Exodus: able men, such as fear God, love righteousness and hate covetousness.

In the teaching of the gospel we must always be outspoken regarding the principles of simplicity in dress, but we

need not enter into the specific work of saying that individuals wear the wedding ring or the gold watch are to be disciplined by the church.

If we study diligently the scripture which says that leaders shall be ensamples to the flock, we will choose those having the best influence, everything considered. I have seen very devoted, earnest people wearing the wedding ring, wearing the gold watch and the gold chain and I felt no burden to say to them, You must lay it off. But when I had a gold chain and Mother had a gold watch and we were told that these things were a stumbling block to others, we soon laid them aside. I wonder if these are not among the things about which every man must be persuaded in his own ~~human~~ mind,

Two weeks ago Mother went to Oakland and spent Friday, Sabbath and Sunday. Elder W.W. Simpson was just closing his series of tent meetings there and he urged Mother to come down and speak to the church and to the new converts on Sabbath. Mother's experience while in Oakland was very similar to the experiences through which she passed in the early years of her public labors. On Friday she was deathly sick, and it seemed as tho she had made a mistake in venturing to go to Oakland. But on Sabbath she was better, and she planned to speak about thirty minutes in the afternoon. When she stood before the congregation, however, the Spirit of the Lord rested upon her and she spoke for an hour and a quarter with clearness and power.

On Dunsay Elder Simpson baptized thirty-two persons at the Piedmont Baths. He expects to return in a few weeks, and then he hopes there will be another large company ready for baptism. There are many more who are keeping the Sabbath, and we hope they will fully identify themselves with our people after further instruction. Mother is pleading with Elder and Mrs. Haskell to return and carry on the work of training workers and instructing the new converts.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours very truly, W. G. W.