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Q & A File Number .....

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Subject .....

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Plagiarism

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Compare and Howson book, The Life and Epistles of St. Paul. It is around this matter that the whole plagiarism story is built, but the facts are that the Compare and Howson book was never registered for copyright in the United States, and any one who wished to do so might prove as much as he might choose by legal action. But the details and exhibits are all given in the book, Ellen G. White and Her Critics. Please turn to pages 28-30 for these details."

**ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE—QUESTION AND ANSWER FILE**

C. L. Paddock  
 Southern Publishing Association  
 Box 59  
 Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Dear Len:

A few days ago I had the privilege of taking lunch with the three managers of our major publishing houses, and you raised the question about plagiarism in the Desire of Ages.

I have inquired around in the office as to whether anyone else has run into this question, and I find that with respect to Desire of Ages it has not been a very serious issue. It became an issue with respect to Great Controversy and Sketches From the Life of Paul.

The brethren point out that the answer on plagiarism is given in F. D. Nichol's book Ellen G. White and Her Critics, published in 1951. There are 65 pages embracing chapters 28, 29, 30. F. D. Nichol says concerning the charge of plagiarism, "It is insinuated that various of her works are heavily tainted with plagiarism, but for some reason the charge is largely confined to these two books." page 404.

Summing up the whole question, Elder White, in answering a letter on this subject, said:

"You ask several questions. 'Was Sister White ever found guilty of plagiarism?' The answer is no. To be found guilty of plagiarism there would have to be a court case. Sister White was never sued at law for anything which she ever wrote or said. In keeping with practices of that time, Mrs. White did occasionally employ phrases and words of others in describing that which she wished to present. A notable case of this was her use of some words and phrases from the

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Coyne and Howson book, The Life and Epistles of St. Paul. It is around this matter that the whole plagiarism story is built, but the facts are that the Coyne and Howson book was never registered for copyright in the United States, and any one who wished to do so might quote as much as he might choose and be in no way liable to legal action. But the details and exhibits are all given in the Nichol book, Ellen G. White and Her Critics. Please turn to pages 28-30 for these details."

I think, Len, this is about all I can say on the subject.

It was wonderful to see you again, and I shall not forget your kindness when I was more closely associated with the Board work at SPA.

Sincerely yours,

W. P. Bradley, President  
ELLEN G. WHITE PUBLICATIONS