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Bible Training School
South Lancaster, Mass.
September 30, 1915

M. E. Kern
Washington, D. C.
Takoma Park

Dear Brother Kern:

You asked me to write you some personal experiences in reference to Sister White's testimonies. There has been a question raised oftentimes, how did this system of Bible readings begin among our people?

In 1883 we held a camp meeting at Lamore, Californig. It is now called Armona. Sister White almost continually was reproving me for preaching so much, in fact, I preached all the time at meetings. Brother W. C. White and I went out in a wheat field to pray and I told him that his mother was telling me I should not preach so much but to instruct the people, and I could not comprehend what she meant because I thought I did instruct the people in preaching.

The next morning it rained and we could not hold a social meeting at nine o'clock as we usually did, because the rain spattered on the tent. But we all went to the tent nevertheless, and we thought we would have some kind of a meeting, so I stood at the center pole of the large tent and our brethren sat all around for the rain did not spatter so much right at the tent pole as it did down towards the eaves of the tent.

After we all gotten in we opened the meeting and I began to ask questions on spiritual gifts and we all became so interested as the brethren read the answers to the questions which I would ask from the Bible, that the meeting which began at nine o'clock continued until

dinner time which was at one o'clock, four hours. That was the first systematic Bible reading that I know of ever being held.

When some of the brethren went past Sister White's tent she asked them what was going on at the big tent. They explained to her what we were doing, and she said that was Elder Haskell's business, he should instruct the people in the Bible that way.

The next winter at the General Conference at Battle Creek we had Bible readings almost the entire time of the General Conference. We had one of the most precious General Conference meetings that we ever held up to that time.

In 1884 there was published a Bible Reading Gazette for one year. It was issued monthly. There was issued in all about 150 or 160 Bible readings; and from that time city missions began to be organized and house to house work to be carried forward with Bible readings, such as we hold at the present day. This was the beginning of Bible readings which are commonly held at the present day among our people.

I may not have given this in the best way but I have simply given you the facts and you can arrange it according to your own judgment.

I have found always during my 60 years of experience in keeping the Sabbath, when I have followed the instruction given by Sister White, either by personal letters or by what she has written, that success has followed every move to carry out her writings. I have received a great many letters from Sr. White, how many I can not tell. Some of them were letters of reproof because of a certain course that I pursued that was not right, others of instruction when and how to take responsibilities.

It was when we were in Australia and Sister White was there that I was instructed by her to go into the school. Up to that time I never taught in a school at all and I would only laugh at the idea of teaching

in the school. I taught two years, one year was on the book of Daniel and the other the book of Revelation.

It was at this time that she instructed me to write on the books of Daniel and Revelation and the book of Esther. This was why I wrote those two books "The Story of Daniel the Prophet" and "The Story of the Seer of Patmos." She afterwards told Brother Irwin when he went to Australia that there should be two books written smaller than Brother Smith's, and more simple. Brother Irwin said that they would employ Brother A. T. Jones to write them, and she told him that A. T. Jones was not the man that she had seen who would write them; and then she mentioned my name. Believing the testimony, I wrote those two books.

She also said they should be circulated everywhere. A short time ago I was trying to reckon up the number of those books that had been published, and as near as I could make out I had had a hand in circulating 96,000. That is not very many in comparison with other books; but it shows what she said was fulfilled in a measure at least.

I do not know as what I have written will be of any use to you at all but you are welcome to it if you wish to use it. The facts are that every advanced move that has been made in the third angel's message has never succeeded until the Spirit of prophecy has given it a divine setting in the truth. Some time when I have the spirit of it a little more than at present I will write more personal experiences with the Spirit of prophecy.

As ever in hope,

(Signed) S. N. Haskell