

(For the REVIEW.)

*Historical*

10.7. 23

ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE

FILE COPY

DO NOT REMOVE

④

### THE PACIFIC PRESS.

Sabbath, July 21, as the brethren and sisters at the Oakland (Cal.) camp-ground were assembling in the large pavilion for the morning services, word came that the entire manufacturing plant of the Pacific Press Publishing Company, at Mountain View, Cal., had been burned to the ground the night before. The awful news was whispered to a few, but those who heard were at first inclined to disbelieve the report; and not until the sad fact was publicly announced from the stand, at the beginning of the service, did the people realize that a terrible disaster had befallen our work.

Monday forenoon at the camp was devoted to the interests of the publishing work, and particularly to the needs of the Pacific Press in view of the fire. Elder W.T.Knox, chairman of the meeting, made a few introductory remarks, and referred to some preliminary plans to meet the present emergency, and also to plans of a more permanent character. He then asked the writer to make a general statement of the existing conditions and of the future work of the Company.

In brief, I dwelt upon the lessons that may be learned from the burning of our publishing house, and upon the plans that have been suggested for the continuance of its work. History repeats itself. As in the days of Elijah, so now---after beholding manifold manifestations of power, including an earthquake and a fire, Elijah heard a still, small voice, the voice of the Lord to him individually. Significant, indeed, is the message that came to him,---

"What doest thou here, Elijah?" Then, in tender compassion, the Lord manifested Himself to Elijah, showing him that those who in quiet trust place a firm reliance upon God, will ever find Him a present help in time of need.

From every outward appearance, the manufacturing plant of the Pacific Press is totally destroyed, with the exception of two or three office-desks and typewriters, and the vaults and safe containing plates and valuable papers. This loss is variously estimated at from two to three hundred thousand dollars. The insurance is about one hundred thousand dollars, and it is hoped that this will be paid in full.

But far greater than any monetary loss, is the loss that comes to us from the inability to give the truth to the people by means of the printed page. And in all our planning, this is where our chief interest should center. The people must not be lost sight of. Our periodicals must be sent out as heretofore. Our canvassers and other workers must be supplied with publications. Arrangements are being made by the Board of Directors to meet these imperative demands.

Needless to say, the employes are most seriously affected by the destruction of our printing plant; yet on the part of all, with very, very few exceptions, there has been manifested the most unswerving loyalty to the institution and its work. They are willing to undergo self-denial, and to return when their services are again needed.

One of the problems to be solved, is that of rebuilding. Shall we rebuild? Shall we divide up, establishing a small plant at Mountain View, and another small one elsewhere? Or, shall we allow everything to go by default? The question of rebuilding is a most

serious one, and we desire the counsel of our brethren and sisters regarding this matter. As a Board of Directors, we have felt as if we must make some ~~provision~~ tentative plans, subject to the approval of our brethren and sisters.

After much prayer and careful study, we have thought that if the town of Mountain View assures us of ample fire protection and sufficiently liberal monetary inducements; if our brethren and sisters at the Oakland encampment ~~would~~ approve of our plans, and if we should not be turned <sup>to</sup> some other way by the Spirit of Prophecy, we would rebuild on strictly economical lines. Of course, were everything else favorable, we could not rebuild unless we realize some return for our insurance, and unless our brethren and sisters in California and in many other places rally nobly to our support. But we feel as if we ought, as one man, arise and move forward in the name of the Lord.

#### A STATEMENT FROM BROTHER C.H. JONES.

Brother C.H. Jones, general manager of the Company, followed with a heart-to-heart talk regarding the present situation. "It is with sorrow of heart," he declared, "that we appear before you this morning. We are cast down, but not discouraged; for we know that God lives and reigns. Our buildings are in ashes---the material things have gone; but the institution remains; for it is in the hearts of our people, and in the hearts of our employes. The work of the institution will go on; for it is God's work, and He still has a work on the earth to be done by us.

"Nevertheless, we can not say anything else than that we feel the deepest sorrow of heart because of ~~now~~ this terrible

calamity. We do not believe that God brought it upon us, but that he has permitted it for some reason, to teach us some lesson.

"This morning I, for one, desire to stop and listen to the still, small voice; for God is in the voice. I desire to hear what He has to say to me individually, not what He has to say to some one else. I believe that from this calamity I can learn a lesson that will be a blessing to me. And more than all else, I believe that God is able to turn this calamity into one of the greatest blessings possible to the entire cause. I look forward to the next two years, and I firmly believe that if we take the right course, we will see this work moving forward as we never believed we could see the truth going to the people. Though we are temporarily disabled, I believe that God is able to bring things around, so that the truth will go more rapidly and with greater power than ever before."

Brother Jones outlined the effort that the management ~~was~~ is putting forth to preserve the organization of the institution, by providing temporarily for the welfare of all the employes, many of whom are dependent on their weekly wage for support. With deep feeling he spoke of the spirit of sacrifice and of loyalty manifested by nearly every worker. Hearts were being drawn together as, one by one, the employes were interviewed by the Board and counseled with as to their financial necessities and future work.

"One great encouragement to us," the speaker continued, "is the fact that no lives were lost. Our lives have been spared, and we are all of good health, and of good courage in the Lord. Four persons came very near being killed. It seems a miracle that they were not; but not a soul suffered any bodily injury. God in His mercy cared for us all.

"Our hearts have been touched by the telegrams and letters that we have received. The managers of several small printing plants have said, 'Our place is at your disposal. If you so desire, you may send your men here to work it at night, and we will work during the day.' Some of the San Francisco representatives of the largest typefoundries in America, have sent their men to us with the offer to furnish our Company with a complete outfit of type and machinery, and leave us entirely free to pay for it at such time as we might choose.

"Bankers have ~~submitted~~ proffered liberal assistance. Other offers have come to us, in various ways. For instance: Those who have shipped printing material to San Francisco to ~~help~~ help out in the emergency there, have offered to divide up, instead of leaving it all in San Francisco. They are willing to provide us with an equipment, and to do it at once. It seems wonderful, brethren and sisters, how God is planning and opening the way for us.

"A linotype has been offered us. We can get it to-morrow, if we want it, and we can arrange for presses immediately. But where will be put them?---We have a large bicycle shed, well built, for the accommodation of our employes, many of whom live some distance from the factory. We have thought of raising this shed a little higher, and of fitting it up temporarily as a shelter for a linotype, a press, a paper-folder, etc. Thus this shed, which has a good roof, could be utilized to great advantage, at very small ~~an~~ expense, for the publication of our periodicals. Electrical power ~~can~~ <sup>could</sup> be attached, and within ~~in~~ two or three weeks we could begin to do our own work again, if thought advisable.

"Though our losses are tremendous, we are still solvent,-- that is, in case we receive our insurance. The value of the Kansas

City (Mo.) and the Portland (Oregon) branch houses, with the property still in Oakland and in Mountain View, together with our outstanding accounts and the insurance, will amount to about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars; but we are just about down to rock bottom. We have enough, if we can collect it, to pay all our debts, and leave the institution solvent. But what we do in rebuilding and in installing a new equipment, would have to be provided for in some other way---largely, we presume, through the liberality of our brethren and sisters.

"As stated before, I ~~am~~ am thankful for the privilege of laying before you our present situation and needs. Above all, I hope we may ~~now~~ do a great deal of praying, that God shall guide in this time of need. In all our afflictions He is afflicted. We know we have a kind, loving heavenly Father, and that His hand is ever extended to help His children in their extremity. If we all take hold courageously and earnestly, we can lift this thing out, and God will turn it into a great blessing for this people. This is what I hope and pray for. I greatly desire that we shall labor shoulder to shoulder in a united effort to carry forward God's work. It is my desire to place all upon the altar, and consecrate<sup>anew</sup> my life and all that I am and have to God, to be used in His service anywhere and in any way that He sees fit."

#### WORDS OF COUNSEL AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM SISTER WHITE.

At this juncture in the meeting, Sister E.G. White spoke, as follows:---

"I am so glad that we have for our God One who judgeth righteously and who understandeth the human heart. He knows just how to deal with every human being: and for this we ought to render

to Him grateful, heartfelt thanksgiving.

"We are distinctly denominated as a people that keep the day which the Lord gave man in Eden in commemoration of the creation. After God had made the world in six days, He rested on the seventh day, and was refreshed; and He blessed the day upon which He had rested, and sanctified it. By observing this day, we are to be reminded continually of the creative power of our God.

"The world have lost sight of the holiness of God's law, and have set aside ~~the~~ the day that He has sanctified. In its place, they have substituted a day of their own choosing. As a people, we are bidden to restore that which has been broken down. The breath that has been made in God's law, must be repaired. In directing the attention of the world to the light of the truth for this time, preparatory to the second coming of Christ, we are to use every agency possible for the proclamation of our message.

"It is for this purpose that our institutions have been ~~and~~ established. The world is filled with subjects of Satan's kingdom. We thank God that we have many institutions wherein are carried forward various lines of work.

"How thankful we should be that we have a God who can preserve and sustain us in the hour of trial! We can not always understand His dealings with us. His providences may at the time seem strange; but He has in view something that is ~~and~~ for our good and for the glory of His name.

"In the book of Job we find recorded a narrative that throws considerable light on things otherwise difficult to understand. 'There was a man in the land of Uz,' we read, 'whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three

daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east. And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings ~~was~~ according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land? But ~~was~~ put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

"And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: and there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: and the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only ~~am~~ escaped alone to tell thee.

"While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only ~~am~~ escaped alone to tell thee.

"While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only ~~am~~ escaped alone to tell thee.

"While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: and, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only ~~am~~ escaped alone to tell thee.

"Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshiped, and said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.'



"From this scripture we may learn much regarding God's dealings with His people. And when calamity comes, unless the Lord indicates plainly that this calamity is sent as a punishment of those who are departing from the word of His counsel; unless He reveals that it has come as a retribution for the sins of the workers, let every man refrain from criticism. Let us be careful not to reproach any one.

"The enemy is often permitted to try God's people in just such a way as Job was tried. And when Job's friends came to him and began to remind him of his sins, ~~they were~~ and to urge that he was suffering because of divine displeasure, they were doing a work that was wholly uncalled for.

"Job endured the test; he proved true to God. And after his trial, his blessings were manifold. The prosperity that attended the closing years of his life gave the enemy no opportunity to exult over the former misfortunes of God's faithful servant.

"The Lord desires us to labor for the benefit of one ~~man~~ another. Let us all, ministers and people, be careful of our words. The power of speech is a talent; the mind, the voice, the strength,---all these are precious talents. Let us keep them wholly sanctified for service in God's cause. We must sanctify ourselves, body, soul, and spirit, unto God, that He may use us effectually as evangelists for the carrying forward of His work."

#### ELDER S.N.HASKELL'S TALK.

At the close of Sister White's talk, the chairman called upon Elder Haskell, who responded as follows:---

"I hardly know what to say, brethren and sisters. You all know what we want. We expect you will help raise some money to rebuild the Press; and this is the beginning and the end of my plea.

"I should like to add one thought, however, about Job, and about another man, too, brought to view in the Bible. You know that those who came to comfort Job, were miserable comforters. The Lord had said that there was not another man like Job in the earth; but these self-appointed comforters tried to show the afflicted man his sins. They were satisfied that they knew exactly how to correct him, and so they set their hands to do it, and labored along this line for some time. They thought they could tell him exactly why he was sick, and why he had lost all his property. To the very end, Job held fast his integrity; and finally, when they came to make an offering to the Lord, He responded by directing them to ask Job to pray for them. Job was more acceptable in God's sight than were these men who thought they could discern his mistakes.

"There is another scripture that throws some light on this matter. It is the word of the Lord at the time Balaam was trying to curse Israel: Speaking of God, Balaam declared: "He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither ~~is there any iniquity in him~~ hath He seen perverseness in Israel: the Lord his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them." But what had the Lord been doing all along?---He had been reproofing Israel for their sins; and yet, just as soon as the enemy rose up and began to curse Israel, God came to their defense. I suppose the righteousness of Christ made them all right in His sight.

"I think, dear friends, the very best thing we can do now, under the circumstances (and I know you will all think the same

way), is to put our hands in our pockets, and give willingly for the restoration of our printing plant. It has been thought by our brethren who are in a position to know, that a hundred thousand dollars, at least, will be required in order to place the manufacturing plant on vantage ground. If you make a good start here, you will have to give until you feel it. The Californians know how to lift when they find themselves in a tight place. I know this; for I have seen them try it in the past---and very successfully, too!

#### A GENEROUS RESPONSE.

Elder Haskell then called for gifts large and small. The brethren and sisters responded nobly, and over eight thousand dollars, in cash and pledges, were raised in a short time.

By a rising vote, as well as by their offerings, the congregation signified their desire to see the Pacific Press re-established plant ~~at~~ at Mountain View. It is hoped that as the needs of the publishing work are brought to the attention of the churches through the State, California's offering will be largely augmented.

We are sure that in this, our great loss, we ~~will~~ shall have the sympathies of the people of the entire denomination. May we not expect a manifestation of sympathy in a very material way?