

January 25, 1907.

Mrs. E. G. White,
Sanitarium, California.

Dear Mother:

I was in Battle Creek a few days ago, and I found Emma very much improved. In fact, she will return home next week where the Doctors feel very sure that she will do as well as if she remained in Battle Creek. I want to say that the Sanitarium, and Dr. Kellogg especially, did everything that could be done to help her. Her trouble is the same that Marian Davis had, and it was fully understood by Dr. Kellogg, and he was able to treat it intelligently and successfully. Under any ordinary conditions I do not believe she would have been alive if she had gone to any other place.

For a long time I have been under a very severe mental strain on account of financial difficulties, and it has sometimes seemed that I would be overwhelmed. I appreciate very much the interest that my brother had in the situation when he was with me and after he went home. What he was able to do saved the situation at the time. I am glad to say that in the trips I have made to the North I have been able to make some deals which will help me to go through the crisis which is before me and to relieve me from the mental strain which I have had.

When in Battle Creek I was advertised to speak on the Sabbath at the Tabernacle. When I reached Frank Belden's house Friday afternoon I had a complete mental collapse. I could not remember the places where I had been on my trip, and although they mentioned the names of the places I could not recognize them at all. I tried to study up a

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subject with which I was familiar, but it seemed as strange to me as if I had not seen it before. I at once telephoned, taking up my appointment, and took the time for rest. The strain of the past few weeks has been very heavy upon me, but the Lord has been very good to me, and has helped me to take care of obligations which would have given me a great deal of trouble if I had not met them. One note in bank for \$2100, which had been running some time, they informed me must be paid, and I was able to pay it. A thousand dollars that I hired from one of the sisters fell due. She would have been distressed if she had not received the money. I was able to get the money and pay her. The payments on the home property which I bought from Landis were over-due, and they were preparing to make trouble, but with what my brother secured through you and that which I can raise, I shall be able to take care of that. There is one important payment to be made on the Food Factory property, and I have part enough to meet that. There is some more money coming to me from different sources, so that now I can say that I am ~~now~~ no longer in danger financially, and that I can be relieved from the mental strain that has been upon me for so long. I am very thankful for this, and I believe it has been in direct answer to prayer, for I have sought the Lord earnestly for His help in this matter, and am very sure that He has helped me.

From this time forward I shall be more careful in my financial matters. I shall keep expenses down to the lowest cent possible, and give my attention part of the time to book-making, and part of the time to rest and getting my health restored to its normal state.

Now, when I was in Battle Creek I was very careful about what I did or said, but I find some things there that I feel would be wrong for me to pass by without informing you in regard to them.

One item is the plan of deeding the Tabernacle over to the West Michigan Conference. Now I have no desire to take part in any controversy in regard to the right or wrong of this. I feel that it is a matter that does not concern me; but there are two features connected ^{it} with which do concern me. One of these is the fact that just as quick as this is undertaken there are parties in Battle Creek who are prepared to serve an injunction in the courts of the law which will bring about a legal fight which will be a disgrace to our people more important than the value of the whole Tabernacle. It may be that at a later time ^{deeding} this can be done, but I know that if it is undertaken now there will be a fight in the courts which will rake up everything that is disagreeable that should not be brought out, and which I am sure will injure our denomination in the eyes of the people everywhere. As a people we have in the past kept free from everything of this kind. The harsh methods of Evans and some others have embittered the people at Battle Creek, and there are those there who are simply spoiling for a fight.

The second feature of this which interests me is the claim which is being put forth that Sister White says that this is the thing to do, and they quote you as authority for going ahead and deeding the Tabernacle to the Conference, and you will be made the one practically responsible if this thing is done at this time. Now, Mother, I know that it is wrong for them to quote you in this way in matters of this kind, ^{but} ~~and~~ I know that they will do this in case of difficulty. I feel free in saying that considering the sentiment at Battle Creek, I believe the transfer of the Tabernacle at the present time in any way whatever will stir the greatest opposition, will bring the greatest disgrace through the courts of the law, and will precipitate a split and a division at Battle Creek which might be avoided if this thing is not

sprung at this time, and if a more conciliatory course were pursued. And as they quote you as authority for this step, the odium of the thing will be thrown upon you in spite of all that can be done.

Now, Mother, please understand that I take no sides as to the real right or wrong of transferring the Tabernacle. I simply tell you of the situation as I find it and what may be expected as the consequence to the church at Battle Creek, and the responsibility which will be thrown on you. I feel that it is only right for me to do this for I think you ought to know the situation as it exists. I believe I am unprejudiced.

There is one other matter which I have hesitated to mention to you, but I believe it is only right under the circumstances. It is the matter of Frank Belden as connected with the Review and Herald Office. I know and you know that they treated ^{him} ~~me~~ dishonestly in the past. I know positively that he had a case in law that would have given him a very important advantage financially if he had gone ahead with it. He went to Washington and there came to an agreement with the Publishing House. They were to publish his books and handle them, and were to do certain things in regard to revising his Song Book. And with that he left them. Since then he feels that he has abundant evidence that the Publishing House is taking another course to undermine him and to make the contract with him of no effect. For myself I will say that I believe the results of the course they are now taking is just exactly that thing. They have not published his Song Book so as to keep in stock for months, and orders from other Houses have not been filled because the Office has not printed the books for them to use. Belden says that now they are preparing to bring out another book to cut his out of the field, which

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he claims is simply an underhanded way to nullify and break the contract which they made with him at Washington. He says that at Washington he withdrew his law suit upon their agreements, and now they have simply gone at it in another way to destroy his book: in reality, simply took another course, and in a round-about-way to break the contract they made with him.

Now, while at Battle Creek I tried not to get myself involved in this thing, and Frank was quite careful while I was there. But he told me plainly that the work that they were doing was simply an underhanded way to go back on their agreement with him while he was at Washington. He said that he made the agreement in good part and withdrew his law suit, and that now while they cannot go back on the agreement openly they have taken an underhanded course to accomplish the same result.

But there is another side to this which I feel I must mention and it is really the thing that caused me to write these particulars. Belden is the most resolute and careful collector of evidence that I ever knew in the world, and to my certain knowledge he has evidence against the Review and Herald as to their failure to keep their agreement with him that I feel sure will stand in law; and I tell you frankly that Belden is preparing this evidence, and I am sure he intends to use it in a way that will not be to the advantage of the Review and Herald. W. C. told me some things when he was with me here. I did not see the full force of them at that time, but now I see the situation more clearly than I did then. And I tell you, Mother, I believe that when our people make an agreement with a man they should keep it not only in letter but in spirit as well. I am going to take a position on this matter, and that is that I verily believe that the Review and Herald is taking a course that is underhanded, and it will bring great difficulty and

and great controversy where none need to exist. But I shall say one word more in regard to this. If they had been straight with Belden all the way through, and had not gotten themselves into the place that they did, they would be in a position to ~~txkx~~ do the things they want to do now, and no one could say they were wrong. But the course of Review and Herald in the past has not been straight and right with Belden, and they were compelled to make agreements with him in consequence of their own wrongs of the past; and having done this I claim that they should live right up to it both in the letter and in the spirit of the thing.

I think I understand Frank Belden's difficult disposition as well as anybody does. I know him about as well as anybody else does; and I do not stand for his mistakes and his censuring as he does any more than anybody else. On the other hand, I have suffered from the wrong course of the Review and Herald managers, and I know something of their methods of dealing. I therefore close this item by saying that the Review and Herald has been wrong in the past and has not dealt right with Frank, and in consequence have had to make concessions to him which they now would like to avoid. I believe it is the duty of Review and Herald, even at a loss to itself and possibly to some other branches of the work, that they should deal fairly and generously with Belden and carry out the contract that was made with him in the spirit of it, and not try to avoid it by schemes and plans which will certainly bring them into trouble and disgrace in the courts of the law sooner or later.

Now, Mother, pardon me if I have laid a burden on you which I should not have done. I would not write in regard to the Belden matter or in regard to the matter of the Tabernacle, if I did not see before us disgrace and difficulty if the present plans are carried out.

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I hope that the present situation may be changed in both these cases so that legal difficulties and disgrace in the courts of the law may be avoided. I feel that there has been too much of this in the settlement of troubles that the Review and Herald have had and that other institutions have had. I believe that some Christian consideration and love could have avoided much of the trouble that has come in this way. But above all things, Mother, I do not want to see a regular legal row over the Tabernacle at Battle Creek, and then have the responsibility of it laid upon you as the one from whom they received the advice. But I will not take more of your time in matters of this kind.

Your son,

J. E. White