

Edgefield, Tennessee, Feb. 13, 1907.

Mrs. R. G. White,
Sanitarium, California.

Dear Mother:--

I have ordered the Southern Publishing Association to send you a copy of the revised edition of "Coming King." You will notice that I have made a good many changes along in the middle of the book, and that the pictures are printed in two colors. This work was all done in my own office because I could not succeed in getting it well done elsewhere. I think this plan will make some of my books much more attractive.

Now, Mother, I want to say to you that for several months a subject has been passing through my mind which I have not been willing to consider carefully, but which I believe should now require my most careful attention. I will begin my mention of it by describing something of the situation. For years I have been connected with the colored work of the South. There was a time when this seemed absolutely necessary, and while I was connected with it my stay in the South seemed imperative. A good work was begun, and it was a successful work. Many souls will be saved in the kingdom of God as the result of this work. But one year ago in January this work was taken over by the conference and made part of the work of the conference. I am now willing to believe that the time had come for me to separate from this work, and although it was probably the greatest trial of my life at the time, that the change was really a blessing to me in disguise. I can see what there is before this work for the colored people. There are terrible times ahead, and whoever is connected with this work will have some pretty rough experiences. But this would not have hindered

me from going forward with it, but the opposition which I was compelled to meet continually made it practically impossible for me to remain with it. I am now willing to believe that the Lord in this way gave me the opportunity to disconnect from the work and let others take it from this time forward.

For the past few months I have been trying to settle on some line of work. I had thought of taking up work for the poor white people in the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee. There is a great work to be done for them, and with my income I could send workers among them who would accomplish a great deal. It is a work I would enjoy; but perhaps there is something else that I ought to do, and the logic of events seems to influence me in another direction. And I will give some of my reasons.

First, The condition of my wife's health is such that she must be placed under very favorable conditions and surroundings. I think the many dark and rainy days in Tennessee and the hot season in the summer are very depressing, and although we have everything very pleasant and convenient, I believe that some other climate would be much better.

For myself, it does not make so much difference, and yet when it comes to the hot summer weather I find it more difficult to get along and do my work than I expected.

Brother Fred Robert is my artist who prepares the pictures for my books. His wife is very feeble at present, and in conversation with him this morning he told me that he was very positive that it would not do for her to remain here in Tennessee another winter. The climate that would be best for my wife would be the best for Sister Robert.

There is another feature of the case which appeals to me very strongly, and that is the line of work which you have instructed me that the Lord has given me to do--that of preaching the truth and preparing books. Of course I can prepare books here, or anywhere else so far as that goes, but so far as any other branch of the work is concerned I am practically shut up to this little place of Edgefield Junction. There seems but little incentive to special effort in public speaking. In the South, it seems to me that there is not so much to be done in the way of public speaking as there is in private house to house work. Our people have but small outside congregations, and the effect produced is very disappointing. The most of the work in the South is done by workers in more rural districts. There would be small audiences, and but very few would take their stand for the truth. Even the strong efforts that are made with our large tents in Nashville have never yet drawn such large audiences as I used to have in the little publishing house chapel when I gave my Sunday night lectures illustrated by stereopticon.

Even by our people in the South, my work for the colored people has not been seconded or really accepted; and the situation has resulted in a drawing away that does not leave the most cordial relations here. I think at the last meeting at Graysville, a little talk I gave them there for a few minutes has made quite a change in the situation and feeling. Yet taking it all around, it seems to me that I have been in this field about as long as it is profitable. In the past two years and a half I have been invited just once to speak in the church at Nashville, and the pulpit has many times been filled by those who are poorly qualified to interest or instruct an audience. I think you have several times stated and written that a worker should not be kept in

one field too long. Now, Mother, there is positively no tie to hold me to the field of the South at the present time. And Before entering into anything new which might hold me here, I have felt that the situation should be carefully considered and my future decided upon so that mistakes shall not occur in the future of my work.

I said there was nothing to bind me here. My property is here, which of course has cost me a good deal of money. But I talked the matter over with my wife last night and neither of us feel that our good home and our property should be taken into account in our decision for the future.

Of course we have a very pleasant home now. My wife never liked any other place in which we have lived so well as she does our present home. But this does not count with either of us when it comes to the question of where we ought to be.

Now, Mother, there have been two locations that have been prominently in my mind. One is Colorado. My wife's mother lives there, and of course it is one of the most healthful and localities that we could select. It is also more central so far as our work in the denomination is concerned. There is nothing in my work but what could be done there, and I believe there are openings for my work as a public speaker from time to time that there are not here in the South. Emma's mother lives there, and of course my wife would be very glad to be with her during her last years. She is getting quite old, and some one of her own people should be near her. Of course, Elder Watson has not been particularly favorable to the work with which I am connected. Yet I will say, Mother, that I have been learning lessons which I am sure will enable me to work in connection with Elder Watson or any one else. But I am not sure that this is the best place for me to go.

The other place I have had in mind is California. Your home is there, and of course it would be very desirable if our homes were not so widely separated as at the present time. In meetings, and work with which you are connected, I think I could help at times. I do not think there would be prejudice there toward me that there is in the Southern and Northern States where I have had to battle for the work among the colored people. You know as well as I the prejudice that there is toward me in the Northern States as well as the Southern States, because I have pushed through the work for the colored people when others have desired to smother it.

Now, if we should come to California, we would have to be careful in regard to the climate. I know we could not locate in any place where the weather is damp and foggy. We must have some dry climate for those who are invalids. Again I do not think it will be well for us to locate in the interior valleys that are so hot in the summer time. If we could find some location where it is not so hot in summer and where the climate is quite dry, we could locate there to good advantage, and my wife's mother could be brought from Colorado to live with us. My wife's mother ought to live with her daughter Emma. We have been very sorry that it has been necessary in the past for her to live alone in her home in Colorado, but the condition of the climate has made this a necessity in the past. If we move now, we want to go to a climate where my wife's mother can live with us. I believe such a climate can be found somewhere in California. Of course I am not well versed in all of the state, but there are those there who could tell where we could find such a location.

Of course we could not leave immediately. Affairs must be wound up here. Our property must be put into condition either to be sold or left in the hands of good people. I would be perfectly willing to

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rent for a time in California if the proper location could be found until the property here could be sold and made available.

Now, Mother, I do not write these things to burden you. I am well aware that you know more of the real situation than I do. I shall send a copy of this letter to my brother W. C., and I should like advice from you and him in regard to the things I have mentioned in this letter.

Now, I do not want either of you to ^{think we have} become dissatisfied with my present home or location. It is the pleasantest home I ever had. My wife enjoys it very much. We have just fixed up our house so that it is healthful and comfortable; but so far as I can see it is simply a place to live. I fail to find around me the opportunities for work and the other surroundings which I feel I ought to have, and with this I will close.

Your Son
J. E. White