

James White letter - marriage plans - p. 2

Falmouth, Aug. 26th, 1846

My dear Brother Collins:

Our very dear Sister Many Ann Lawrence fell asleep in Jesus Tuesday P. M. at 6 o'clock. She had her senses till the last. When I saw her eleven days before she died, I asked her if she was willing to die. She said, "Yes, if it is the Lord's will I am willing. I am prepared, certainly, I am prepared to go. Three and four days before her death her mother asked her if her faith held out. "Yes," was the reply. "Does your faith in Jesus' coming still hold out strong?" She gazed at her mother with a look of surprise and answered, "Certainly. I must be very different from what I am now if I give that up." A few moments before she fell asleep she called her mother to her and said, "My dear mother, my dear mother, I am going, going home. Glory to God, going home to glory. Oh glorious hope! Oh blest abode! I shall be near and like my God. I am going up home, up home, up home to glory. How good, how good is dying," and fell asleep.

Such a testimony is worth more than a world to her dear lonely mother. I feel much for Sister Lawrence, here all alone, a lamb among wolves. The funeral will be tomorrow at 2 P. M. I am in truly a strait place, but I will trust in God. I shall have a congregation of hard, ugly Congregationalist and Methodist. My text is Tim. 2: 11, 12, 13 verses.

I. The second appearing of Christ is a subject that the Apostles dwelt largely upon. II. A second presupposes a first and must be in many respects like a first. III. Christ first coming was literal, so will be His second coming. IV. Death, conversion, or the advent of the Spirit is not Christ's appearing. Christ is coming to raise the dead saints and change those who are <sup>alive</sup> living. V. Christ is coming to restore this earth to its primitive purity. VI. He is coming to set up his everlasting kingdom and reign. Christ is to be King. The land promised to Abram and enlarged in Dan. 7 and Isaiah 65, and is

to be the territory of the spiritual seed of Abram, the subjects, etc.

This is our hope. Paul calls it a blessed hope and all true believers can say Amen.

Do not think Brother James is getting formal or is going to try to convert people to the Advent faith. No; its too late. But its our duty on some occasions to give a reason of our hope I think, even to swine.

I have a chance to get to Fairhaven tonight in a sail boat, and shall take the cars tomorrow morning for Boston, and the express train of cars for Portland at 4:30. Shall be in Portland tomorrow night at 6 o'clock. I have received a letter from Ellen, stating that Brother Nickols was at Portland next day after I left. She said he had a glorious time. She had a vision when he was there. Brother Nickols said he was tried when he first heard of our marriage or intended marriage, but he was now satisfied that God was in it. Sister Ellen says that the way is made plain. We are published; we shall be married perhaps Monday. Since I saw you I have visited Holms Hall, Bro. Chase, and the sisters are good. We had a Holy Ghost time together. They have no objections now to our marriage. But it tried them at first. I have visited Bro. Hall. I related the story to Charlotte and Sister Hall. It made them surprised at first, but they told me they thought it must be of God. Well, I will say no more on this point.

Since I left Portland I have been very free and happy. God is good to me, a poor worm, and I hope to go to glory. If I get there I must press to the mark. The devil is the devil, yet God save me from his wiles. When I think of my strange course for nearly two years sometimes the thought rushes over me that it is all wrong: I mean my course. I have no doubt as to the Advent history, shut door and all, not one. But I have sought with intense interest for heavenly wisdom and I will believe that God has lead me. Amen.

From what Ellen said in her letter, I judge that she thinks of coming West as soon as we are married. If we do we shall be at Dartmouth.

Love to your wife and Sister Ashley.

James White.