

James White Letter

Wright, Michigan.
Dec. 12, 1861

Brother E.P. Butler:

I am sorry to trouble you again with matters pertaining to the Andrews' difficulty. But the enclosed seems to demand some notice, and judging from the past, I have no hope of receiving justice in this matter, made more or less public among you by addressing a reply to the writer of the enclosed note. This is my apology for troubling you.

It must appear strange to you that this matter should continue eleven years, when you consider ^{the} close relation I have sustained in the message to the writer's son and the accuser has had so many opportunities to talk the matter over. First when we visited Paris, Maine; second, when making us apparently a pleasant visit at Battle Creek on their way to Waukon; third, when we visited Waukon, and the Lord met with us. But the thing has been salted down eleven years, or talked out in my absence to prejudice and distrust those who are ignorant of all the facts. And now, when I have become gray and bald, and through the multitude of cares during the lapse of time, I have nearly lost sight of the matter, ^a letter discussion of the subject is introduced.

But I shall not engage in a full discussion by letter. I would be happy to be at Waukon and answer to charges brought against me, as I have ^{had} the privilege four or five years since. I will, however, make a few statements relative to the enclosed letter.

1. The contract spoken of was not, I think, put in writing; therefore there is quite a chance in eleven years to forget whether I was to pay at the rate of \$20.00 per year, or \$20.00, whether I staid one month or longer.

2. We were then paying \$1.00 per week for board, but found our own wood and lights and two-fifths of the rent of the whole house. This pay for board seems small, but Mr. Millett, the leading man in the Oxford Journal Office paid but \$1.50 at a good tavern, which was worth more than twice what we two dyspeptics got selecting the plainest from a farmer's table. I seldom ate anything beside potatoes and salt with a few spoonfuls of milk on them and corn bread. And when I undertook to keep house to prevent utter starvation, the difficulty assisted by the Steven's family commenced in good earnest. At the rates of good board, ours, all found, could not be worth more than \$1.00 per week.

I have not the least idea that I changed the terms of the aforesaid contract to cheat a poor man out of \$8.00. Neither does any other man who knows my course believe this base suggestion.

Edward Andrews does not really believe this. He cannot. He knows I gave his son John a pair of boots and gave him woolen flannels, that I and wife did most to get William a coat and pair of boots, when I suffered for many of the comforts of life. That I gave up my horse to John and Brother Rhodes and suffered greatly on my tour to Vermont in consequence. After receiving from my hands numerous presents for himself and family, Edward Andrews is the last man that walks the sod to make the base suggestion that I altered a verbal contract to cheat him out of \$8.00. I have no doubt but (that) he makes this statement in his ingratitude to try to sustain his unbelief in the visions which have reproved him and his family.

Suppose I had injured Edward Andrews eleven years since. Can he not see any redeeming features in my course toward his son since that time? When I last visited Paris, Me., I gave John \$50.00

in clean money. And in all his travels east, to search historical facts, my letters have followed him at every point to the brethren to do liberally by him. His first edition of Hist. Sab. was worth to him \$125.00 at my suggestion alone, to say nothing of the frequent donations from my own purse or articles of clothing. I have helped him \$60.00 in books and a stove in the S.D. A.P.A. this last fall.

J.N. Andrew's lack of taking a firm position, discouraged me utterly in regard to him near a year since, yet I tried to follow him in Minn. last summer with a few small drafts. Had he stood by me as I have tried to stand by him, I could have had courage to have seen him fully sustained. But I had no faith that God would bless his labors, and as I was not in the least consulted as to that mission, I could not feel it duty to do anything, still did what I did, out of regard for his evident sincerity in laboring for the good of the cause in the past.

Cannot Edward Andrews see something in all this to lead him to think that possibly he is mistaken? Or will he in view of these things persist in the contemptable charge that according to his certain memory I changed a contract to cheat him out of the sum of \$8.00.

But I have written more than I intended. I should be happy to meet these things face to face before all to whom charges against me have been uttered, when I would present a list of things against the accuser, one of rather a light-fingered character of which I happened to be an eye witness.

As to the visions on the commencement of the Sabbath, they never said that six o'clock was the right time. That they did not at an earlier date teach sunset, you will have to blame the Lord if anybody.

As to the marriage, if the two families had believed and acted upon the visions when they professed to believe them, poor Brother John might have been saved the dreadful trials he has suffered. When we left Paris, (my) wife saw that there was an unholy union between the two families which must be broken. They were then living some distance apart, but very soon moved into one house, and all the evidences show that that union increased. Also, wife, in almost every vision for Brother John, which were, I think, as frequent as once a year, addressed him like this,- "Paris is no place for you. There is an influence there that would get you down from the work." These warnings were timely, and sufficient had all the professed faith in them been lived out.

These charges are of the same unreasonable character of that in which I was blamed for moving the office to Michigan which I proved groundless when at Waukon. I may be favored with the privilege of speaking for myself before my accuser, and those whose minds have been poisoned by him. However, that may be, I am ready to meet all charges against me before those who keep the seventh-day, at any proper time and place, but shall **not** spend further time in this matter with ink and paper. I still have a high regard for Brother John Andrews, and pity him from the bottom of my heart. If the two families had heeded the visions given them in 1850, doubtless his union with his wife would have been formed under circumstances free from their present trials. The cause would have been saved ^{dreadful injuries,} from premature old age, despondency and anguish of spirit. Or if John had been of a different temperament, so as to stand out free from the influence of the rebellious at Paris, he might have been saved from most of his trials.. I have said it in public and private that I regarded J.N. Andrews and Uriah Smith as two splendid

young men and sincere Christians, possessing sweetness of temper and fine feelings beyond any two men of their mind and talent I ever saw. They are coming out like gold, seven times purified. But O, the unnecessary anguish of spirit these two men have suffered in consequence of the stubborn rebellion at Paris. It has well nigh ruined them both, and resulted in tearing them down from responsible stations.

Thank God, it is not too late for wrongs to be righted. Let the liv^{ing} shake and manifest character! God is righting up all who will be helped. Amen.

James White.

Dear Brother,-

Please hand the enclosed to Edward Andrews and return this to me (without reserving a copy of any part of it, or suffering anyone to take a copy of any part of it), When you have read both to the church. If you do not wish thus to read them then return both to me at Battle Creek. Enclosed is stamps for postage.

In hope of better days,

James. White