Letter from E. S. Ballenger to Harry S. Weaver

  
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Mr. Harry S. Weaver,

61 South Flower St.

Takoma Park, D. C.

Sept. 29, 1933

Dear Friend:

Your letter of the 24th just arrived, and I will give it the preference above scores of other letters in the pigeon hole.

I am enclosing a few copies of the leaflet on the, sanctuary question. I will be glad to supply you more if you can use them.

Yes, Dr. Chas. E. Stewart is the author of the Blue Book. He is second to Dr. Kellogg in the medical department of the Battle Creek sanitarium. In fact he was appointed receiver by the court when that institution went into the hands of the receivers. I understand however that Dr. Stewart and his family have gone back into the Adventist church. So he may not be as free to give out information as he was at the time he wrote this book.

You will find him a very pleasant man and he will cooperate to give you information if he feels so inclined. The book was not put out as a sanitarium document. Dr. Kellogg advised very strongly against publishing it.

And so Elder Daniells is at his old occupation. I wonder how he can look an honest man in the face, knowing what he does about Mrs. White and her testimonies. But we will have to let God take care of him. He may be perfectly honest, but I can't help but consider his position similar to the Jesuits. Believing that "the end justifies the means."

I was very closely acquainted with Elder D. M. Canright for a number of years before he passed away. I was entertained in his home at Grand Rapids and we entertained him in our home while living in Battle Creek.

Some where about 1914 he came to Battle Creek to attend a general gathering of the Adventists. It was in the winter time. He called on the local Baptist pastor and as he came from the ministers home he slipped on the icy steps, fell and broke an arm and a leg. He was taken to the sanitarium, where under their care, his arm healed quickly. But the leg caused much trouble. Until finally they had to amputate it. This was such a shock to him that he came very nearly dying. At that time I was living just across the street from the hospital and called on him frequently. He became so low that he expected to die. He called to me to come to his death bed, as he supposed, and we all thought it was the end.

But he recovered and after that wrote the Life of Mrs. White. When he left the Adventists he joined the Baptist church and united with the church of that denomination in Grand Rapids. He was highly respected from his first connection with them. The whole church turned out at different times to honor him on his birthday and on his return from some of his lecture tours.

When he located in Grand Rapids, he bought a little farm just outside of the city. The city spread rapidly in his direction. He divided up his farm into city lots and sold part of it to good advantage. So that he lived comfortably with a good income until the end. His son did the farming and they lived together. When his health finally began to fail, his older daughter, Mrs. Day, took him to her home at Hillsdale, Mich, and cared for him until the end.

I had the privilege of spending an afternoon with him about a week or ten days before he died. I asked him definitely regarding his hope and he expressed great confidence in the Lord and in the assurance he had of being accepted. He was happy and cheerful and talked freely and I remember well a most pleasing joke that he related to me.

As I said before I was in frequent contact with him and I always found him cheerful, happy and very studious. Before his accident., my Brother and I spent two afternoons with him. Part of the time discussing our differences. We discussed the Sabbath question very freely. He made no attempt to defend the observance of Sunday. He freely admitted to us that the Bible taught no other Sabbath excepting the seven day.

He said that he had been taught from his first connection with the denomination that if one gave up the testimonies, they were lost. And they might as well give everything up. He said he was so disgusted with the deceptions of Mrs. White, James White and other leaders that he wanted to wash his hands entirely clean of the whole system. He died very quietly and peacefully and never made any confession or expressed any regrets regarding his course after leaving the denomination.

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E. S. Ballenger