Letter from E. S. Ballenger to Paul Barker

  
Canrig2a

April 5, 1953

Paul N. Barker

My Dear Friend,

I was very much interested in your letter, especially that relating to the statements made by the president of the conference to some of the leaders of your church.

I am very glad that Pastor Spindle read the "Prophet Special." You may tell him that I will give him ten dollars if he will find a single mistake in the statement of facts in that issue with the exception, of the statement that Mrs. White was $90,000 in debt when she died. Her indebtedness, as reported to a County Recorder, was a little short of 90,000. Aside from that there isn't a single mistake in that issue regarding the denomination, its leaders, or Mrs. White. Carchich, president of the conference, of course, told them the current stuff that is passed out from headquarters regarding D. M. Canright. He may be honest in telling that stuff, but he is wide of the mark and far from telling the truth.

I'd like to know what he means by saying that the General Conference has been trying to "smoke me out." I haven't been in hiding the least degree since, I have been publishing the mistakes of SDAs. Nothing would please me more, in my conflict with SDAs, than to have them bring suit against me for libel, or for defaming their character. You are at liberty to pass on to these representatives that I will gladly donate $50 towards paying expenses of bringing suit against me, if any denominational organization will proceed to punish me through the law. If they doubt my good will, I'll send you a check for fifty dollars and you can cash it, and stand ready to hold if for a trial as to whether I am guilty of misrepresenting any feature of the denominational creed or their practice.

I do not approve of Canright's course of action. I can't remember when I didn't know him. From a child I used to hear him preach at our camp-meetings and he was a very strong public speaker, but he always dwelt on doctrinal subjects. I was intimately acquainted with him for a number of years before he died. He has been grossly, misrepresented. If the SDAs would confine their criticism of him for his attitude toward the Sabbath and toward the nature of man, they would be blessed of the Lord, but when they try to defame his character and misrepresent him, they are at fault.

I spent an afternoon with D. M. Canright, just a week before he died and I had a very intimate conversation with him. He felt perfectly ready, to meet his Lord and was expecting that the time of his end was near at hand.

Many grossly false reports have been circulated regarding him. He died at the home of one of his daughters. After his death, two of his daughters came to see me. They were greatly incensed at the report that their father had recanted before he died. They were in a frame of mind to bring suit against the denomination for misrepresenting their father. I feel quite certain that they would have prosecuted the leaders if I had recommended it, but I discouraged them from going to law about the matter.

He may have said a good word for Mrs. White, I don't know about that, but for his recanting, or considering himself as a lost man, is made up of a whole lie, made up out of unholy desires.

I did not get the charges I published against the SDAs from D. M. Canright. I got them wholly from books published by the denomination. I have in my library the first publication put, out by the pioneers, "A Word to the Little Flock." I also have a copy of the first periodical they published, "Present Truth.." I have The Advent Review" and four volumes of "The Review and Herald," together with the four volumes of Spiritual Gifts. I also have the first edition of "Early Writings" printed in 1851.

I never read D. M. Canright's first book against Seventh-day Adventists. I did read two or three chapters in answer to a question that was written me, dealing with the Sabbath. I read Canright's chapters in regard to the Sabbath --The only portion of that book that I ever read.

I did get something from D. M. Canright. He gave me the originals of six letters from Uriah Smith and five letters from James White while he was still a minister with the denomination. Both of these, James White and Uriah Smith, questioned the inspiration of Mrs. White's writings.

I stand ready to come at my own expense and meet with the president of the conference in regard to the things that I publish, if he will meet me before any Seventh-day Adventist church.

I have a standing offer to any official of the SDA, denomination or anyone that the denomination will indorse, to use at least one-half of any number of issues of "Gathering Call" to point out to my readers wherein I am misrepresenting them, or wherein I am teaching error.

I stand ready to meet any of the facts that I have published in the Gathering Call, or in any of the literature which we circulate. What I have published is the truth, and the fact that they refuse to meet me in public debate or to reply to me through their papers is evidence that they dare not enter into discussion with me because of the facts at my command.

You are at liberty to use these facts and I shall stand ready to glorify you in your use of them.

Your friend and brother,

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E. S. Ballenger