

NEBRASKA CONFERENCE

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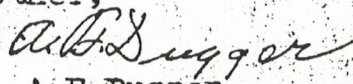
Bassett, Neb. Feb. 20, 1947.

Dear Brother Ballinger:

Herein, I enclose a copy of a letter written by O.R.L. Crozier to my father, forty-eight years ago today. I thought this letter might be of interest to you.

I do not have a copy of the original letter. However, it was published in the Bible Advocate, Stanberry, Mo. Mch 7, 1899, Vol. 33, page 292.

Your brother,



A.F. Dugger.

50¢ enclosed for which please send "Call" for one yr.
P.S. I note that Sr. White's Will makes provision for her grandchildren. Can you tell me if any of her grandchildren were yet unborn at the time the will was made? My father was personally acquainted with Elder and Sr. White. In fact, he was well enough acquainted to be entertained in their home. This was while he was still a 1st Day Adventist. When he began keeping the Sabbath, Elder White made it his personal business to try to get him to unite with them. He told ~~them~~ ^{him} that he did not believe in the visions and was told that that would not hinder as long as he would not oppose them. Father said that he told Elder White that he would not agree to any such arrangement; for, if he were asked about the visions, he would feel it his duty to inform the questioner how he stood. This ended the matter.

Ann Arbor, Mich. Feb. 20, 1899.

Mr. A. F. Dugger,
Bassett, Nebraska.

Dear Brother:- Answering your esteemed favor of the 3rd inst.--I was born Feb. 2, 1820. I have received and answered many such letters as yours on the same subjects. It is unfortunate that many good people are unwilling to correct their mistakes. Denying them, covering them up, explaining around them, is not so honorable, not so Christian, as acknowledging them. A candid confession,--"I was mistaken"--is a spiritual tonic.

The visions you speak of, having been a cheap and powerful means of financial and party success, the temptation to defend and encourage them has been very strong. Having known their history quite well for fifty-three years, I have always believed their ~~information~~ inspiration to be entirely human, seldom unselfish, and often false as to facts, and obviously unscriptural as to doctrine.

I did not "originate their present sanctuary view." The facts in the case are--William Miller deserves the credit for "shut-doorism" among the advent people; and he got the idea from some of the most learned commentators of the "orthodox" churches. I am not aware that either he or they built it upon the sanctuary service. They inferred it chiefly from passages in the New Testament. Mr. Miller expressed his opinion that the door of mercy would be closed in 1838. When "the 10th day of the 7th month" time passed in the fall of 1844, he and others (with few exceptions) who were interested in that "Midnight cry," as they called it, believed that the door of mercy was then shut,--that "no more" sinners "would" or "could" be converted. That opinion prevailed in 1845 and 1846. In the latter year

I published in an Extra of "The Day Star," a paper published by Enoch Jacobs, at Cincinnati, an exposition of the Sanctuary and its Service in the law of Moses, to explain how and why the door of mercy was shut. On account of our ignorance of ^{the} Scriptures my argument was more fully

and more widely accepted than it deserved to be. In the next three years ('47-49) I saw and published its defects as to the shut door.

They were:

1. There is no proof that the processes of repentance and pardon were suspended on the Day of Atonement.
2. "His mercy endureth forever." It is presumption to limit God's mercy. The bar does not come from God's side, but from man's side.
3. Jesus never refused pardon to any one repenting and asking for it.
4. ~~There~~ is Scripture proof that there will be pardon and salvation under the reign of Christ--for the left of the nations, after the second coming. This, chiefly, brought me out of the shut-door.
5. Out of it, we can see that the shut-door conception is crude, gross, narrow, puerile.

You ask, "Did you hold to the shut-door theory, that salvation was past, and that there was no more pardon for sinners?" I did!

"And did.....the ^{EGW}author of the visions, and those who believed them, adopt these views?" They did; and were among the first to declare them and the most persistent in retaining and publishing them; and what is more, they must still hold these views, because they still adhere to my sanctuary exposition, which was written to prove the shut-door. They even make (or did make a few years ago) a foolish excuse for the conversions that have occurred since the fall of 1844, viz., that the names of those millions of converts were borne into the holy of holies on the breastplate of the high priest on the 10th day of the 7th month of that year--most of them yet unborn!, There was no hint of any such thing in the type. The first shut-door believers put the issue on higher and more obvious ground, viz., that the Lord would very soon come--was actually on his way, some said,--and the world would be immediately destroyed. But as he did not come, and as conversions could not be prevented, nor denied even under the labors of the shut-door believers, the names of

future converts on the breastplate was a Yankee invention to suit the emergency. But, in the type, the names of the twelve tribes--not the names of all faithful individuals--were on the breastplates.

In the love of ~~truth~~ the truth, in the blessed hope, and in the precious work of the gospel,

Your brother,

O. R. L. Crozier.