**Gilbert Cranmer's Open Letter**

**Published in *Hope of Israel*, Aug. 10, 1863**

About ten years ago [1853] a Seventh-day Adventist minister, by the name of [Joseph] Bates, came to our town and advocated the whole Law, the gifts of the Spirit, and many other glorious truths. The gifts belonging to the Church, I had believed in for over twenty years. Hence I felt to rejoice, supposing I had found the people I had been so long looking for. He told me that the gifts were realized among them, that they had the gift of prophecy and the gift of healing the sick. **But as long as I was with them I never knew of any being healed**. I have known them to try but they always failed. In this I was disappointed. **I also found the spirit of prophecy, with them, was confined wholly to a woman**. By this time I became suspicious that I had gotten on board the wrong ship. I then commenced to giving her visions a thorough investigation. **I found they contradicted themselves, and that they contradicted the Bible.** My doubts concerning the visions I made known to the brethren. At once they gave me the cold shoulder, and I was held at bay. Not knowing any people I could unite with, I remained with them for years, hoping they would get sick of the visions of E.G. White, and that we could yet walk together in unity of spirit. But instead of rejecting them, as I hoped they would, they only drew the reins the tighter. At last I made up my mind I would not belong to a church that was ruled by a woman any longer. From that time the Bible has been my creed, with Christ at the head of the Church. I started alone, with my Bible in my hand. God has blessed my labors beyond my utmost expectations. We have some eight ministers and some hundreds of members in the state of Michigan. God has manifest His power among us in a wonderful manner.

Gilbert Cranmer