

We very much regret being separated from you so far, but thus it is and may God fit you and us . . . to bear the affliction like Christians. . . . To us there is no place like home. Yet if it is in the order of God for us to be thus separated, let us be cheerful, be reconciled. You can help us bear the inconveniences we may here meet by a right course of action on your part. [Cf: 3MR174.01] p. 1, Para. 1, [1865MS].

Be careful to cultivate true politeness, which is true courteousness. Kindness and love for others will win for you quite a satisfaction and consciousness of right doing. You will also gain respect from others. [Cf: 3MR174.02] p. 2, Para. 1, [1865MS].

Edson, my boy, seek in the strength of God to overcome your passion for reading storybooks. The time you spend in reading, devote to study. Make your time tell somewhere. [Cf: 3MR174.03] p. 2, Para. 2, [1865MS].

Edson, strive to set an example worthy of imitation. . . . Love Willie. Be very kind to him, love to please him and do not leave too many burdens upon his young shoulders. Don't expect much of him. Set him a good noble example. [Cf: 3MR174.04] p. 2, Para. 3, [1865MS].

Willie, love Edson. You two brothers should love one another deeply, fervently and should be ever studying to make one another happy. [Cf: 3MR174.05] p. 2, Para. 4, [1865MS].

May God bless you is our daily prayer.--Letter 61, 1865, p. 1. (To "Dear Children," Autumn, 1865.) [Cf: 3MR174.06] p. 2, Para. 5, [1865MS].

We are hoping . . . that we may return to you--not to plunge into business as we have done and leave you poor boys to take care of yourselves, but we are going to spend more time with you, seeking to make you and Willie happy. We will have more recreation and less work.--Letter 7, 1865, p. 4. (To Edson White, October 19, 1865.) [Cf: 4MR94.02] p. 2, Para. 6, [1865MS].

We received letters from home with gladness, but were a little disappointed that none came from you or Willie. I should not have expected much from Willie, but you can write, Edson. . . . [Cf: 4MR172.02] p. 2, Para. 7, [1865MS].

When all around me are locked in slumber I am kept awake with anxiety and I can only obtain relief in silent prayer to God. I understand your dangers and your temptations as few parents can, for He who understandeth the secrets of the heart has been pleased to show me your peculiar dangers and besetments. I do not think you understand your dangers. . . . [Cf: 4MR172.03] p. 2, Para. 8, [1865MS].

When I see you disposed to take a course which is not in accordance with your profession, and which I know will prove an injury to yourself by placing you in the enemy's power, my feelings are intense and a weight of sadness settles upon me which it seems impossible for me to throw off. It binds me like fetters. [Cf: 4MR172.04] p. 2, Para. 9, [1865MS].

As I have seen in you, my poor boy, a disposition to disobedience, I have also seen a yielding to temptation to deceive us. You would have plans formed which you would keep secret from your father and mother, fearing that you would meet opposition in some of your projects or fond plans, and when questioned you have evaded or thrown a different shade upon and around the matter under inspection. . . . [Cf: 4MR172.05] p. 3, Para. 1, [1865MS].

By frequently violating your conscience it has lost much of its tender susceptibility. Every instance when you fall into this deplorable habit binds the chains of the enemy upon you and makes you his captive and a more easy subject for his entire control. You may have become so darkened and hardened by these repeated efforts at concealment and deception that these facts plainly written by a mother's hand, painfully and with an aching heart, may seem like idle tales and may make no lasting impression upon you for good. . . . [Cf: 4MR173.01] p. 3, Para. 2, [1865MS].

Your parents, who live for you and are desirous of your present and future happiness, see you taking a course which leads them often to doubt what you say and to look upon you distrustingly because they know that you are often planning and entering into schemes and enterprises and concealing it from those who gave you birth, who have the right to know every cherished plan, that they may give the advice a boy of your critical age needs. . . . [Cf: 4MR173.02] p. 3, Para. 3, [1865MS].

You have a strong, set will. You make up your mind to do a thing and do not discipline your mind to yield, to be submissive, to give up your plans which are very pleasing to your own fancy. When opposed by your parents in something you had planned, you outwardly yielded, yet kept it all in your mind, did not give it up at once but kept studying upon it. Your many notions may seem valuable and right to your own inexperienced mind. The experienced minds of your parents may see the foolishness and perhaps hidden danger in these things. But you cherish your own notions and then Satan tempts you to carry out your strong desires unbeknown to your parents. Thus you have been led on to think you understand what is right and best. In our presence you may comply with our wishes, but in our absence you feel restraint gone and do those things that, if you would reflect you would know that we would not allow or consent to your doing. This is what has led you into nearly all the trouble you have ever known. You disobey us in our absence. . . . [Cf: 4MR173.03] p. 3, Para. 4, [1865MS].

You have followed your own will and projects so many times, concealing all from us, going directly contrary to all our counsel, advice, and prohibitions, that we cannot depend upon you, and this painful fact has been so evinced in your character that you are associated in my mind, not with pleasant thoughts, but with most painful fears and forebodings. Instead of being a comfort you are a source of painful anxiety. . . . [Cf: 4MR174.01] p. 3, Para. 5, [1865MS].

You ought to be my noble, truthful boy, a staff to your father, who is worn with care and constant labor, a comfort to your mother who has nursed you in sickness and cared for you in health. What can cause greater sorrow to parents with high principles and a keen sense of the beauty and importance of truth than to become convinced of the fact

that their children are not truthful, that they have learned to deceive? . . . Thorns and briars have sprung up in my garden and choked the seed which I have tried to sow. You may say, "Dear me, Mother feels very keenly over trifles. I may not have been exactly truthful in little trifles." Trifles! Dear boy, there are no such things as trifles. Till truth itself is a trifle and valueless, no departure from it in any case can be called so. . . . [Cf: 4MR174.02] p. 3, Para. 6, [1865MS].

You have so long cherished little habits of concealment (especially from your dear father), so long retreated from openness and candor, that you have become habitually secretive, even when there is often no inducement to be so. This makes you unsatisfactory, unstable, and insincere in character. Your habit of excusing and justifying yourself is often contrary to your conviction of truth. Every act of this kind is doing much toward forming your character. . . . [Cf: 4MR174.03] p. 4, Para. 1, [1865MS].

Edson, in youth or early years we can trace the characteristics of riper years. The rank and noisome weeds of falsehood and deceit, which choke the precious plants of candor and truth, are sown in the springtime of youth. . . . After indulging in deception or concealing things from your parents, prevarication comes next; which is a mean, cowardly sort of lying. The path of truth is always safe, straight, and easy; that of deceit has so many windings and turnings that one deviation from uprightness and candor may lead to a thousand deceptions which were not anticipated at the first. A love for candor and truth is respected and loved by everyone not excepting those who place no estimate upon it for its own sake. Concealment, my dear boy, is [a] child of transgression. . . . [Cf: 4MR175.01] p. 4, Para. 2, [1865MS].

The most positive and particular directions given to you are not remembered to the fulfilling of them. Your mind is almost constantly in such a frame as to make it easy to forget. . . . These constant failures wear us. . . . [Cf: 4MR175.02] p. 4, Para. 3, [1865MS].

You are not thorough in that which you undertake. . . . You see no necessity of disciplining your mind. You do not have any system. . . . [Cf: 4MR175.03] p. 4, Para. 4, [1865MS].

Now, Edson, I wish to speak of the evil of these things in another direction. We are not only distressed beyond measure at the seeming hopelessness of reform in you, but a gloom which I cannot express shrouds our minds in regard to your influence upon Willie. You lead him into habits of disobedience and concealment and prevarication. . . . You do things and enjoin upon him strict secrecy, and when questioned he evades it by saying, "I don't know," when he does know, and thus you lead him to lie in order to keep concealed your cherished, darling projects. This is the most heart-rending of all. You reason and talk and make things appear all smooth to him, when he cannot see through the matter. He adopts your view of it and he is in danger of losing his candor, his frankness. [Cf: 4MR175.04] p. 4, Para. 5, [1865MS].

Oh, Edson, it is the knowledge of these things that is wearing me out and bringing upon me discouragement which will compel me to cease laboring in the cause of God. . . . Can you see the weighty responsibility which rests upon you? Satan controls your mind and you

yield your mind to his control. He knows that it is the surest dart he can aim at us to hinder our labors among God's people, to so influence your mind that we shall have sorrow and a weight of sadness on your account. Are you willing to bear this responsibility? . . . [Cf: 4MR176.01] p. 4, Para. 6, [1865MS].

My dear Edson, you must render an account for the influence you exert. You have been blessed with good instruction and more is expected of you than of boys generally. I do not love to cause you pain, but I dare not withhold from you the light in which I view your case.--Letter 4, 1865, pp. 1-7. (To "My Dear Son Edson," June 20, 1865.) [Cf: 4MR176.02] p. 5, Para. 1, [1865MS].

Said the angel, "Rebellion will occur up to the time of the closing up of the work of the third angel's message. Marvel not, neither be discouraged. He who conquered the leader in rebellion stands at the head of this great work. Although Satan may exult and seem for a time to triumph, the first great Conqueror has His eyes upon him, and he can go no further than He permits. He is permitted to have power for a time to reveal the truehearted, to prove the faithful, to develop the spurious and separate them from the pure in heart. Rebels will be purged out from among the loyal and true in due time, for the truth has gathered of every kind."--Ms 1, 1865, p. 3. ("Rebellion Within the Ranks," circa 1865.) [Cf: 5MR296.02] p. 5, Para. 2, [1865MS].

We have here met with a lady who was at Our Home at Dansville when we were there. She introduced me to her husband. They attended our meetings. Your father gave a temperance discourse Sunday morning. She sat with her husband in their carriage just outside the curtains of the tent. They are intelligent people and the first in the place. They invited us to visit them, and today we comply with their request. She made the remark in regard to your father's discourse that it seemed to her she was listening to Dr. Jackson again. She spoke especially of my speaking at the convention, said she had never forgotten it; that it had been a great help to her since that time; that it had especially benefited her.--Letter 3, 1865. (To Edson and Willie White, June 13, 1865.) [Cf: 5MR383.02] p. 5, Para. 3, [1865MS].

Someone told me that they would put in the steel-rimmed buttons left from my dress but they cannot be found. If there is one dozen left I want them sent; if not, get enough to make one dozen. I need them up and down the front of my short dress. That is the way they all have them. The black buttons left from my dresses I also want for my short plaid dress. There is a little box of buttons I left in the front chamber. Send them if you please.--Letter 5, 1865. (To "Dear Children," September 18, 1865.) [Cf: 5MR383.03] p. 5, Para. 4, [1865MS].

I would like to have you send to us the health journal in which Graham gives his apology for being sick. It is a few numbers stitched together, sent from Adams Center, from which we selected largely. Please send (to us at Our Home, Dansville, New York) one half a dozen of our pictures, both on one card, and one dozen each separate; also two of James, large, and two of mine, the best you can find. Please send a couple dozen *How to Live*, bound.--Letter 6, 1865. (To "Dear Children," September 22, 1865.) [Cf: 5MR384.01] p. 5, Para. 5, [1865MS].

Edson, . . .it has been told me that you were seen riding with the Walters girl. I do not charge this upon you as a grievous sin, but you are well aware that we would not approve of your showing partiality or attention to any young miss at your age. When you are old enough to begin to manifest preference for any particular one we are the ones to be consulted and to choose for you. I wish you to be carefree of your acts, not make yourself foolish and a subject of ridicule. You are but a boy yet. Will you please to remember it, and rely upon your parents' advice and instruction?--Letter 7, 1865. (To Edson White, December 13, 1865.) [Cf: 5MR384.02] p. 5, Para. 6, [1865MS].

My breakfast this morning was plenty of well-cooked mush, one gem, and two raw apples. This noon, baked potatoes with a little milk gravy and one gem, one spoonful of turnip, and one small apple.--Letter 8, 1865. (To James White, November 21, 1865). [Cf: 5MR384.03] p. 6, Para. 1, [1865MS].

The first night after we came here [Rochester, New York] I dreamed of being at Dansville and of the power of God resting upon me in such abundance that I was nearly lost to everything around me, and I was exalting God and our Saviour as the great Physician and the Deliverer of His afflicted, suffering children. The Spirit of inspiration was upon me. I could not forbear, and in a most exalted, elevated strain I was magnifying the power of Jesus and His saving grace, His exalted, spotless character, His blameless life. [Cf: 5MR386.01] p. 6, Para. 2, [1865MS].

Dr. Jackson was near me, afraid that his patients would hear me, and wished to lay his hand upon me and hinder me, but he was awed and dared not move; he seemed held by the power of God. I awoke very happy.--Letter 9, 1865. (To "Dear Husband," November 22, 1865.) [Cf: 5MR386.02] p. 6, Para. 3, [1865MS].

I live here about as I do at Dansville. Mornings I eat mush, gems, and uncooked apples. At dinner baked potatoes, raw apples, and gems. . . . All here pray earnestly for you and notwithstanding Dr. Jackson's "long time" I believe you will astonish the whole fraternity by a speedy recovery to health. Many times in the day you are in my mind and I say aloud, God lives and reigns, and I believe we shall live to praise Him.--Letter 10, 1865. (To "Dear Husband," November 24, 1865.) [Cf: 5MR386.03] p. 6, Para. 4, [1865MS].

When we went to Monterey last summer, for instance, you went into the river four times and not only disobeyed us yourself but led Willie to disobedience. A thorn has been planted in my heart from that time, when I became convinced that you could not be trusted. I am not easy any time, whether at home or abroad.--Letter 4, 1865, p. 4. (To Edson White, June 20, 1865.) [Cf: 6MR297.03] p. 6, Para. 5, [1865MS].

News and Instructions Sent From Dansville--We are all as well as could be expected. Your father is doing well. He sleeps well nights, which is a great blessing. I have been thoroughly exhausted since my journey and have had but little care of your father. Brother Loughborough lay on a cot by his side two nights and he and your father both slept well. Last night Uriah lay upon the cot by his side. I know not, as yet, how they rested. I cannot sleep much, which prevents my getting rested. . . . [Cf: 10MR26.03] p. 6, Para. 6, [1865MS].

In regard to Edson's clothing, sponge seven yards or the whole of the smallest piece of that gray, and then let Edson take the cloth to the best tailors and get it cut whole frock, for that is the style now worn. I do not wish it to be cut half frock, for I never fancied it. Find out how much a tailor would ask to cut and make up the coat and write me as soon as you receive this, then I will answer immediately. . . [Cf: 10MR27.01] p. 6, Para. 7, [1865MS].

If a man tailor makes these coats they must cost too much for making. If you can obtain a good woman tailor whom you can trust, engage her to make both coats, if she does not ask too much.--Letter 5, 1865, pp. 1, 2 (To Dear Children, Adelia, Anna, Edson, and Willie, Sept. 18, 1865) [Cf: 10MR27.02] p. 7, Para. 1, [1865MS].

Ellen White's Deep Interest in Her Husband--Last night was a cold night. I dreaded sleeping along in a cold room, but my nice warm nightdress was finished and I put it on and it was real comfortable. . . . My sewing is going off bravely without my taxing myself at all. . . . [Cf: 10MR27.03] p. 7, Para. 2, [1865MS].

Dear James, I feel a deep interest for you every moment, and my heart is uplifted to God in your behalf. I shall be glad to return home in a few days and again stand at my post and do what I can for your comfort. I think it is right that I came here [Rochester, NY]. . . . [Cf: 10MR27.04] p. 7, Para. 3, [1865MS].

Please speak your wishes freely and I will do just as you wish. I should prefer to come home, for I want to see you very much. May the Lord bless you abundantly, is my prayer. I hope dear Adelia will be of good courage. I will relieve her soon. I fully appreciate her self-denial and privations for us and I pray that God will bless her with His free Spirit.--Letter 9, 1865, p. 2. (To James White, November 22, 1865) [Cf: 10MR27.05] p. 7, Para. 4, [1865MS].

The Saviour's Eye Is on James White--We will present your case to God, dear James, every time we pray, and will press our petitions to the throne. At times I have had a blessed assurance that God heard me pray through His dear Son and that His blessing rested on you there at Dansville. I feel the sweet presence of God at times when I pray, and feel such an evidence that God has set His love upon you, and although you are afflicted, Jesus is with you, strengthening and supporting you by His all-powerful arm. He that stretched out His hand to save sinking Peter upon the troubled water will save His servant who has labored for souls and devoted his energies to His cause. Yes, James, the eye of the compassionate Saviour is upon you. He is touched with the feelings of your infirmities. He loves you. He pities you as we cannot. He will make you to triumph in His own dear name. Be of good courage, my poor suffering husband, wait patiently a little longer and you shall see of the salvation of God. We know in whom we have believed. We have not run as uncertainly. All will come out just right in the end. [Cf: 10MR28.01] p. 7, Para. 5, [1865MS].

God will give us strength and we shall yet be a happy family, rejoicing in God our Deliverer.--Letter 10, 1865, p. 2 (To James White, Nov. 24, 1865) [Cf: 10MR28.02] p. 7, Para. 6, [1865MS].