

August 11, 1904.

E.G. White Research Center

FILE COPY

DF3

OUR DUTY TOWARD THE HUNTSVILLE SCHOOL.

#25

* * * * *

My visit to our school for the colored people, at Huntsville, Alabama, brought me great sorrow of heart. I had known that this institution was in pressing need of substantial help, but I had not understood fully the real condition of the school. That which I saw, staggered me. I asked myself, "How can the brethren in the South, who have seen the needs of this school, remain silent? In what light does God regard their failure to bestir themselves in an effort to place this school on vantage ground? How can He acquit the sight of their eyes?"

The equipment of the Huntsvills school is very incomplete. Even some of the most common necessities are lacking. There are no proper facilities for giving treatment to the sick. Those who attend this school have been getting along with crude make-shifts, hoping that in time some of the necessities would be supplied.

That which to me seemed the greatest mystery of all, was the striking contrast between Graysville and Huntsville. At Graysville the school and the sanitarium have been built up substantially by friends both in the North and in the South. The Graysville brethren and sisters have given much toward the erection and equipment of good buildings. The Graysville community has an appearance of thrift and prosperity. This is as it should be. But I could not understand how those there, who have known of the destitution of a sister institution at Huntsville, have been content to continue building up their home institutions, without doing something for the training school for colored people.

How neighborly, how Christlike, it would have been for

those at Graysville to say, "We have been prospered in our efforts to establish institutions in this place. And while we are not planning the Graysville work unwisely, nor building too substantially, yet, in consideration of the more urgent need of the institution at Huntsville, let us send on to our fellow workers their some of the means now flowing in to us." What an encouragement this would have been to the struggling teachers and students at Huntsville. How pleased the Lord would have been to see the needed facilities thus provided for!

I refer to the neglect manifested by the Graysville church, simply to illustrate the spirit that has characterized other churches in the South and elsewhere. Those in charge of the work at Huntsville also failed of fulfilling their whole duty. They should have put forth every effort possible to place their needs before our people in the South. Earnest letters appealing to the generosity of Seventh-day Adventists throughout the South, should have been written and sent out freely. Hearts would have been toughed by such appeals.

"As the Saviour was teaching during His earthly ministry, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted Him, saying, 'Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?'" The Saviour entered into no controversy. He required the answer from the questioner himself. "What is written in the law?" He asked, "how readest thou?"

The lawyer said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." "Thou hast answered right," Christ said, "this do, and thou shalt live."

Unwilling to acknowledge the truth, the lawyer put another question, saying, "Who is my neighbor?"

Instead of entering into controversy, Christ answered this question by relating the parable of the good Samaritan. "A certain

* * . * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Page 3 missing.

* * * * * * * * *

been burdened so heavily over this matter, that I have felt that if my strength would be sufficient to enable me to travel from place to place in the South, and arouse our people to fulfil their duty toward this school, I would then be willing to die. From the light given me, I know that God is in earnest with us regarding our neglect of duty toward this institution.

Let us now redeem the time. The Lord has been calling upon His people in the stronger Conferences of the North to sustain the Huntsville school by liberal gifts. We pray that He will put it into their hearts to respond nobly. Shall not His people in the South act their part faithfully, by taking a neighborly, substantial interest in the welfare of an institution planted in their own field? The Lord will bless every unselfish effort put forth.

(Signed) Ellen G. White.