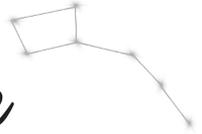


TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Ungorgettable Meeting	1
The Vision of the Missing Hairnet	6
The Longest Vision	9
The Unknown Young People	13
Two Secret Signs	15
God Will Provide	19
Annie Smith's Dream	24
The Stocking Behind the Door	27
Three Miracles	29
James White and the Dead Wolf	32
The Cow That God Stuck in the Mud	36
The Riverboat and the Lumber Rafts	39
The County Treasurer and the Missing Money	42

The Unforgettable Meeting



AS TOLD BY ARTHUR L. WHITE

Nellie Sisley was fourteen years old. A few years earlier, she had moved from England to Battle Creek, Michigan with her mother, brothers and sisters. Elder and Mrs. White also lived in Battle Creek not far from the publishing house and Sanitarium. Nellie and her mother went to the prayer meeting at the Battle Creek Church on Friday evening, June 12, 1868. There were about 200 people at this meeting. Elder and Mrs. White had been away for some time. Now they were at home in Battle Creek and everyone expected that they would both speak at the prayer meeting. Perhaps they would tell about some of their work in the other churches.

Elder and Mrs. White came into the church, walked to the front, and sat on the lower platform. After the song and prayer, Elder White spoke for about ten minutes. Then he said, "I know that you want to hear Mrs. White, so we will turn the meeting over to her."

Then Sister White began to talk. She told the congregation that she was so impressed with the thought that "we are not making the preparation to meet Jesus that we ought to be making. Jesus is coming soon," she said, "and we must be ready." She pointed out that Seventh-day Adventists were pilgrims and strangers, and "we want to live for the future, and get ready for Heaven." After she had spoken for about half an hour, she seemed to fall backward to the floor. She didn't drop on the floor with a thud, but it seemed as if angels' hands were gently letting her down.

Nellie and her mother, who had never seen Sister White in vision before, thought, as did many in the audience, that she had fainted. Often when she was in vision she exclaimed, "Glory!" or "Glory to God!" But this time she was silent. The people opened the windows a little wider and brought a glass of water for Sister White. Then Elder White said, "Don't be alarmed, for Mrs. White has not fainted—she is in vision." Then a quietness came over the audience. As Nellie told this story years later she said, "It seemed as if heavenly beings were there in that church. We

weren't frightened. Sister White was lying down on the lower platform, quiet and absolutely unconscious."

Then Brother White said, "There may be some people in this congregation who have doubts about Mrs. White's inspiration and about the visions. If there are any such, we would be glad to have them come forward and try the physical tests given in the Bible."

Then he knelt by her side and raised her head and shoulders so they rested on his knee. Nellie was sitting by her mother, and she knew that her mother had sometimes doubted the visions, so she said, "Mother, why don't we go up and see Sister White as Brother White has invited us to do?"

So Nellie and her mother went up together. They stood very close to Sister White's head. They could see that she was not breathing. Her eyes were open and there was a pleasant expression on her face. Everything looked very natural.

Other people in the congregation also came up, and there were two large men who worked at our institution who came with the others. One stood on one side of Sister White and the other stood on the other side. Then Elder White said, "The entire congregation has seen Sister White fall. They know that she has lost her natural strength. Now we wish to see if she has been supernaturally strengthened." Her hands were lying clasped lightly on her chest. Elder White spoke to the two strong men. "I want you to take her hands apart. Just pull her hands apart. You have two hands to her one." So they tried. They pulled and pulled. Some of the people became anxious. Nellie thought they would hurt Sister White, but Elder White said, "Don't be anxious. She is safe in God's keeping. You can pull until you are perfectly satisfied."

They said, "We are satisfied now. We don't need to pull any more." Then Brother White said, "Try to pry her fingers apart." But they couldn't do it. They couldn't even move one finger. Sister White didn't change the expression on her face, and they just couldn't move her fingers. As she told this story, Nellie said that they looked carefully to see if her eyes would close and to see if she was breathing. But her eyes remained open; there was no movement of the eyelids. She didn't breathe at all.

Then Sister White took her hands apart and made graceful gestures and as she moved her arms Brother White said to these men, "Now I want you to hold her arms." And these strong men took hold of her wrists. But they couldn't stop the motion. It looked like any child could keep her from

moving her arms, but she moved them just as though no one was around. The men were afraid they might hurt her or that what they were doing might interfere with the vision, but Elder White said that they wouldn't hurt her or interfere with what she was witnessing. Although she was wholly unconscious to anything about her, she was safe in God's keeping.

During this time, she was looking upward with a natural expression in her eyes, but her eyelids never closed. Elder White said, "Now that you are satisfied that there is a supernatural strength which she has while in vision, we will see if her eyelids will close." There was a brightly burning lamp on the stand, and Elder White took the shade off and put this light right in front of her eyes. Nellie thought Sister White would move her eyes to protect them, or close her eyes, but she didn't. She was oblivious to everything around her. The same natural expression remained and her eyes were not staring or glassy. At times the expression on her face changed. Sometimes she looked pleased, and at other times, she seemed very troubled.

"Now," said Elder White, "we must see if there is any breath in her body." As Nellie told the story many times in later years, she said, "There didn't seem to be any breath. Everything looked all right, but she didn't breathe."

Elder White said, "Now, we will send out and get a mirror and we will test her to see if she is breathing." So someone went next door and borrowed a mirror. Do you know what happens when you breathe on a mirror? It gets all foggy. The people held it close to Sister White's face, but no moisture gathered on the mirror. So they knew she wasn't breathing. But when they felt her pulse, they found that her heart was beating regularly and the color in her face did not change.

Occasionally Sister White spoke in short sentences. She spoke of some things being shown to her in vision. At times, her face appeared animated and excited, but at other times she looked sad and seemed to be shrinking back from what she saw.

When she began to come out of the vision, she took three long deep breaths. Her lungs had been empty. Elder White assisted her to a chair, and then said to her, "The congregation would be very interested in the vision. I know that they will want to know something about what you have seen."

Sister White replied that she would gladly tell the people what was shown to her in vision. She talked for half an hour. She had seen in vision

the bright and glorious home that the Lord is preparing for His people. Then she had seen the destruction of the wicked people, and what troubled her greatly was that some who had been Seventh-day Adventists were among the lost. They had started on the narrow pathway to the heavenly home, but for various reasons had turned aside. Some had become discouraged, some were very much in love with the pleasures of the world, others were more interested in making money than in serving the Lord, and many Adventists had wandered away from the truth.

As she spoke about the New Jerusalem, she said, "Oh, I wish I could describe it! I have no language with which to tell you even a little of what has been shown to me. If you could be there and see what I saw, you would never allow anything on his world to tempt you to live in such a way as to be in danger of losing eternal life."

For a time after the vision, she could not see very well. She told the people, "Now, you may not understand why I cannot see well. If you turn your face toward the sun for a while, then turn away, you will understand. Heaven is brighter than the sun." Then she gradually regained the use of her sight, and the vision didn't injure her sight at all. Many visions were given to Mrs. White, but they did not leave her weak or ill.

As Sister White talked with the people, she said, "It is not the large sins that we do, but the little things like carelessness or not fully accepting the responsibility that the Lord would like to place upon us. We are living too lightly. We are spending too much time and thought on our present interests. Some of these things may be all right in themselves, but they crowd out the heavenly things."

As Nellie, her mother, and the people went home that night they said to themselves, "How glad we are that we went to prayer meeting tonight! Now we have seen Sister White in vision. We know that God gives her the visions." And they determined in their hearts to study the counsels which were written out, and to apply those counsels in their lives.

What was shown to Sister White in that vision, she soon wrote out and printed in a little pamphlet called *Testimony for the Church*, No. 16. It is found today in *Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 2, pp. 112-199. Again and again you will find reference to the vision given on June 12, 1868. When Sister White wrote of the vision she said, "June 12, 1868, while I was speaking to the brethren in the house of worship in Battle Creek, Michigan, the Spirit of God came upon me. And in an instant I was in vision." Elder White also tells us about this vision.

Nellie married a young minister and spent a large part of her life serving the Lord in America and Australia. While in Australia, she often traveled with Sister White and occasionally she and her husband lived at Sister White's home. Nellie never forgot that Friday evening when she and her mother went to prayer meeting and she saw Sister White in vision.

Based on accounts given by Nellie Sisley Starr, James White, and others.