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Unsigned letter to Theophilus Brown Larimore

unknown

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Gainesville, Fla. Mar 11, 1913.

Mr. T. B. Larimore,

Gainesville, Fla.

My beloved friend and brother:-

For obvious reasons I deem it my imperative duty to make some statements to you, and explanations in order that justice may be done all concerned when you consider our present crisis.

We are about to see one of our fondest hopes shattered upon the rocks of disappointment. This, however, is like most of the things of this earth--very uncertain. I am reminded that the dearest treasures we have on earth are as but ~~evapor~~, a mist that vanishes with the rising of the morning sun.

Perhaps our ambitions were pitched too high, our castle-in-the-air too glorious for realization.

We thought that the returns from the sale of lands and lots would take care of every contemplated expense, and that all we needed was the loan to get the buildings up and the amount would be speedily retired from the sale of lots. The sale of the property has been so uncertain that it has caused financial embarrassment and discouragement. Our crisis is a financial one. We did not stop to count the cost of the property and expense of running the proposition. Our preliminary expenses were too much for our assets, if they met with good sale.

The trustees went into the proposition with full faith and confidence, with high hopes of success, and entered into the contract with you, feeling that if the thing could be accomplished by anyone it could be accomplished by you.

But for the financial embarrassment there would have been no misunderstanding about the home proposition. To begin with the Barnes home would have been bought, if the money had been available for that purpose at the time of the contract. The trustees hoped that the sale of lots and lands would relieve the situation, and enable them to carry out the agreement with you in regards to the home and the salary. In this we were all doomed to disappointment.

To begin with, in reference to the home: I did not intend to convey the idea to you that I had given you the Baker home, and did not know that I had conveyed such an idea to you until you purchased the lot from brother Bowers a day or so later, and told him that I had given you the home. I knew then that ~~had~~ been misunderstood, and debated the question whether I should correct the wrong impression I had then made or proceed to try and get the home for you and deliver it to you, with the result that the matter was necessarily deferred on account of the Baker personal trouble. I knew the trustees had contracted to give you a home, and proceeded on the basis that as we were under contract to deliver home to you that I should proceed to try and get that one as it was suitable for you. The property was and is considerably involved as there are two mortgages on it and the deed that I hold against it from the Bakers, is to secure certain advances made by me to help them, and which I had to borrow in order to equify date them, and am borrowing now.

I cherished the hope that the trustees could deliver that home to you until I saw that we were hopelessly financially embarrassed, on a count of failure to get the necessary money to get things started on a business basis.

I was so enthusiastic for the success of our enterprise that I did not want to do anything that would cause any dissatisfaction. I thought that the delay caused by the Baker trouble would give the trustees ample time to recover from the financial straits they were in, and they could then straighten out the tangle that I had made, and give the deed over to you for the home. That is the reason I did not explain to you that I had conveyed the wrong impression in the outset about the home. Subsequent developments have shown me that in this I was wrong.

The trustees did not authorize me to offer you that home.

The conversation we had that afternoon, in which I conveyed that impression in reference to the house was done on my own responsibility. I guess I was too enthusiastic, so much so that I did not know or realize what I did. I did not mean to do harm. I am sorry that it has turned out like it has, and regret it more than I can say--that is why I am writing.

I have offered to place mortgage on my home in order to help carry out the contract to furnish home for you, after it became evident that the trustees as such could not do so. I know regrets can avail nothing, and before God, I ask you to forgive me and forget that I ever said anything about the home, if possible. I am sorry that I caused so much trouble. I was greatly at fault in this matter.

I want you to know that although our present enterprise may and I suppose has failed of success, that I believe and still have hopes that there are ways and means opened up before all of us through which we can glorify God, and work in his vineyard. Let us not give up and say that life is a failure because this has failed. Who knows but that this was not the way the time nor the place in which to proceed along the lines we have undertaken to work for the Master. "All things work together for good for those who love the Lord". Let Peace be with us and abide unto the end.

Please consider this letter absolutely personal to yourself and sister Larimore from

One who loves you both.

I have written, because I could not say it.