


5-6-1913

Unsigned and unaddressed letter dated 6 May 1913

unknown

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GAINESVILLE, FLA. May 6, 1913.

As we repeatedly said to each other there, so say I here now: I want the brethren there to fix everything exactly as they want it. I want to do everything they want me to do, if I can; and I want them to do nothing except what they really want to do. You and I are agreed on that; but Brother Brooker wants me to write you something for you to suggest for him to the brethren there; hence you may let them read this letter, if you wish. Brother Brooker's desk is loaded with books, papers, etc.; so, I'm writing this "off hand"-without table or desk - hence it's sure to be hard, if not impossible, to read.

Brother Brooker says the brethren here will lose their faith or lack of faith on what the brethren there do; hence he wishes to say to them through you, if you are willing to deliver the message, that, if that paper leaves Gainesville with less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) promised, in good faith, by the brethren there, that will be the death blow to the proposition. He thinks he understands the situation, and he says, if the paper leaves Gainesville with less than ten thousand dollars promised, in good faith, by the brethren there, success will be absolutely impossible.

He wishes to say to the brethren there, however, that, while he will promise nothing unless they subscribe \$10,000 or more before the paper leaves Gainesville- and he thinks they ought to subscribe more than \$10,000- and can well afford to do so-when you hand him the paper here, he will do his very best to have half as much subscribed here as they subscribe there, and he believes he can do it. In other words: he will do nothing unless the Gainesville brethren subscribe, in good faith, \$10,000 or more; but will see that Trenton

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subscribes not less than \$5,000, if Gainesville brethren subscribe not less than \$10,000, if he can- and he thinks he can.

Brother Brooker and others here seem to be genuinely grieved over the prospective failure; but I am sure Brother Brooker is seriously and sincerely in earnest when he suggests that we mention the matter to no one unless the Gainesville brethren subscribe what he suggests, and, unless they do, we need not expect him to promise a penny. I've not told him what the Gainesville brethren have subscribed or will subscribe; but he seems to be as serious as if he were in the chamber of death when he talks about it. He may be mistaken, of course; but I'm sure he's sincere.

Brother Brooker suggests reasons for his conclusions and suggestions; but I shall mention none of them.

Finally, first, last and all the time, you and I want the Gainesville brethren to do everything they want to do- and nothing else. That's all.