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C. C. Grisler,

Sanitarium, Calif.

Dear Brother:--

Your letter of February 26, with the seven packages of manuscripts and proof pages accompanying the same, duly received. I wish to express our most hearty appreciation of the pains you have been to in supplying us with the copy of all these various notes and observations, which you have been making and writing out in your research work for the new and revised edition of "Great Controversy!" I have not as yet taken time to look these all over, but from those which I have examined, I am confident you have gotten together some valuable matter. We prize this collection very much, and shall preserve it here for ^{future} reference and use.

I notice that one of these manuscripts deals with the subject of the flight of the Christians from Judea and Jerusalem. I have recently been looking up this question somewhat, and my investigation has compelled me to alter my former views upon one point. I always supposed that the

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siege begun under Cestisus occurred only a short time before that under Titus. For a long time I even supposed it was in the same year, or A. D. 70. But from reading Josephus I got the idea that it was in the autumn before, or in A.D. 69; not because he says it was in A. D. 69, but because, from what he says, it is clear that it was in the autumn, and I supposed it was the autumn immediately preceding the spring when Titus came. But upon further investigation, I find that nearly all ^{reliable} authorities place Cestisus's attack in the fall of 66, or 3½ years before the siege under Titus. The new "Catholic Encyclopedia" is very explicit in regard to dates, and ^{this} says that Cestisus "arrived on 30 October, 66, with the twelfth legion, but only to meet with repulses, and had to retire," and then adds, "The Christians, recalling Christ's prophecies (Luke 19:43,44) withdrew beyond the Jordan, into Agrippa's territory, led by their Bishop, St. Simeon."

What is said in "Great Controversy" in regard to this matter, I think agrees with this all right. (^{See} Pages 30 and 31 of the old edition). Only there is nothing either here or, I think, in any other of our works to indicate that there was anything like a number of years intervening between the two attacks, the one under Cestisus, and the ~~Siege~~ Siege of Titus.

It seems to me that there ought to be something in some of our works some time which will give the correct impression to the reader upon this subject. In the "History of the Sabbath," Elder Andrews is likewise indefinite upon

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this subject. One reading this would naturally gather the erroneous idea which I held for many years. Of course I know that "Great Controversy" does not generally deal very much in dates; but if the proper dates could be thrown in here, it seems to me it would do no harm. This is merely a suggestion.

I have noted the way the wording has been changed on page 261 of "Great Controversy. This, however, does not remove the objection raised in the matter quoted from the Canon law as ^{whether this} ~~to~~ refers to the moral law. If ~~it does not,~~ ^{then} the use here made of the quotation will not hold, and is a misuse.

As ever, sincerely yours,

W. A. Coleord.

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