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Letter from Ambrose White & B.P. Aydelott to Ohio Annual Conference

Ambrose White

B.P. Aydelott

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To the Ohio Annual Conference

By Messrs
Rev. Mr. Finley
Rev. Mr. Bullard

Dearest
My Beloved
to the Ohio Annual Conference

87

Cincinnati 28th August 1830-

To the Ohio Annual Conference of
the Methodist Episcopal Church -

Brother,

At the request

of Messrs Finley and Bullard, Ministers of
your denomination, we beg leave to address you
on a subject which, we believe, must be interesting
to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many of you are doubtless aware that at
the last Anniversary ^{Meeting} of the American Sunday
School Union held in Philadelphia a short
time since, it was resolved, that in dependence
on Almighty God there shall be
established a Sunday School within two years,
in every part of the Valley of the Missis-
sippi where it is practicable.

The one great object of the American
Sunday School Union has ever been to pro-
mote the formation of Sunday Schools;
And all Sunday Schools or Sunday School
Societies organized by the Agents of said Union
are left free to determine whether they will
become auxiliary to it or remain independent
or attach themselves to some other Sunday School
Union. The schools that choose to associate them-

-class with the A.S.U. are still left to the ex-
clusive control of those who conduct them. Thus the
A.S.U. never interferes. It simply offers to its ad-
vancés the privilege of purchasing books at such
a discount as will cover cost and charges. The price
of this privilege whether to a school or to a Society
embracing many schools is an initiatory fee of three
dollars, which is always thrown into the fund
for the support of S. S. Missionaries.

A more liberal system than that now laid
before you - one more in accordance with the
catholic spirit of the gospel, it appears to us, could
not be devised. It lays open that broad ground
to which all are the dear Christians without
sacrificing a single denominational pre-
lative may "come up to the help of the Lord,
to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

Christian Brethren, we feel that this is a most
important and interesting work, - one to which the
united energies of all good people ought to be con-
centrated. There are in the vast Valley of the Missis-
sippi at least eight hundred thousand children
fit subjects for Sunday School, but of these three
hundred thousand are the most liberal calculation
in what will become of the remaining seven
hundred thousand if they be suffered
to remain without the blessed influence of Sunday
School instruction? Must our people prosper
and fall a prey to the evil demon of infidelity?
or the ever watchful spirit of opposing? And should this
be the case have we not reason to tremble for
our civil and religious liberty, which a threatened
Providence has conferred upon us, & which we

bought with the blood and the lives of our Fathers?
An ignorant irreligious population can not be free.
And let it be considered that the children, who
are now growing up in the West, will be able to
control all the measures of the general government,
which are of great national importance. It is
calculated that in twenty years hence the major-
ity of the inhabitants of these United States will
be on this side of the Mountain.

In view of these things we feel ourselves
constrained, Brethren, to call upon you
for help in the name of the Lord. Could you
not designate a certain number of your Preachers
to labor as Sunday School Agents in this State
& the Territory of Michigan, or elsewhere? We are
authorized to say that the A. S. U. would
gladly commission and sustain such persons
as you would be willing to recommend. They
would hail them and you as fellow helpers in
the good cause of extending moral and reli-
gious instruction to the rising generation.

For further information we refer you
to the River and Brethren who will send you
this.

May the Holy Spirit guide and sanctify
us all. - Your friends and servants in
Christ's bonds -

Ambrose White a Director of A. S. U.

P. P. Aydelott of the Presb. Church &
Chairman of the
Western Board of Agen-
cy for S. S. -