

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

J. E. DAVIS, Admor.

BOX 667

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A. 4/29/19

Dr. J. F. Love,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother Love:--

The New York Board through its Secretaries is objecting to the policy of our paper, and I am about in the notion to get out of this place.

Dr. Some time ago, Brink wrote that we would make a great mistake if we entered into any sort of religious controversy with other churches or denominations. He went out of the Board as you know. We are trying to do our duty conscientiously here, and take no dictation from anybody, so we went on doing what we feel was the right thing.

All the time, from Mexico comes the cry for us to speak out against this evil or that evil, and we have done so, feeling that we should reprove, rebuke and meet wrong wherever we find it, always of course in the spirit of love.

Dr. Now, this morning I have a letter from Barnes in which he says that they have approved the provision made in the budget for this purpose, which is "something less than three thousand dollars." He does not say how much less, but I presume it is the same as last year, though he fails to inform me. This will hamper us somewhat. However we are not worrying about that.

He, without making any direct mention of our papers, says the following, in part: "Even in a Latin American country where Rome is rampant, irritating to the last degree and utterly harmful, I would like to see an evangelical periodical for a whole year devote itself to proclaiming the truth without any direct attack upon the special errors of Romanism." Then he makes a boast of being a rabid Anabaptist--pity the conservative ones then --he goes on to say:

"I assure you that it is the desire of the ~~Board~~ Board of Managers of the American Baptist Home Mission Society that the controversial element be avoided to the utmost degree possible in publications which we help support."

Now, I have tried to edit papers for Mexico for many years,

and I find it utterly impossible to avoid controversy. I try to conduct it in the right spirit, and often fail. That I confess frankly. But in the main, we succeed.

We feel that we must expose error, and we are conscientious in it. We can not do otherwise. This is a controversial element. Finding that I can not avoid it entirely, nor do I care to avoid it, and knowing now the attitude of the Home Mission Society, I am ready to get out of the way so they can put in a man that would conduct this work in a very different manner, if that is what is desired by you, and our Board.

If I were not living now from hand to mouth--not knowing exactly how to cut expenses any further, I would go to the Convention to discuss with you there these weighty matters. But I have not the money, and could not spare it, as my family needs every cent we get now to meet the ~~very~~ most necessary expenses of living.

If you desire me to, I will make copies of these letters and all things leading up to this opposition--veiled to be sure, but nevertheless, opposition--to our policy, I will gladly do so. If you think it better for me to be at the Convention, I will go, on instructions from you.

Believe me, these are vital things. I can not suffer any man or band of men to dictate to me how I am to do the Master's work, which I try always to do conscientiously and prayerfully. And when it becomes impossible for me to fit in to this or any other place, I am ready to get down and out, and that without feeling hurt in the least about it.

Trusting to hear from you soon, and praying the Lord to lead us all for His glory,

I am an ever, fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

*P.S. Trust my report
was received in time.
I was a bit late getting
it off, but as I have
now heard from any
of you there take it
for granted it got there
on time.*

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