

To the Assembly in *Final Case of W.C. BAYNES* (1) Over 151
Beloved Brethren:- *The Hague (Holland) and Sheffield (Germ) Apr 1885*

1.- In our Conference at the end of last month in Elberfeld, where there were assembled about 40 brethren, Ministering the Word in Germany, Holland and Belgium, we felt obliged to consider the sorrowful events, which have taken place in the assembly at Montreal, because several German and Dutch brethren living in America, had asked our opinion and counsel; some of us had read the book of F.W.G. "Life in Christ and sealing with the Spirit" and the answer of Lord Cecil; and we read together; "The narrative of the Facts" published by your assembly and sent to us. With great sorrow we took knowledge of the separation, which the devil could work again amongst those, who are gathered to the name of our Lord and Saviour and which as we heard has already gone thru Canada and the States, and in which sooner or later all assemblies on the earth will be concerned. We feel it to be our duty to communicate to you some considerations concerning these events for, altho we are far away from the scene of the strife--but therefore perhaps more able to form an impartial judgment--we have as members of one and the same body a vivid interest in all things which pass in the body and we suffer necessarily thru the events which have taken place.

2.- We agree in general with your judgment on the doctrine of F.W.G. as far as that doctrine has the tendency to put the human mind and human philosophy in the place of the childlike obedience to the Word of God. The book of F.W.G. appears to be full of cold reasonings; it contains further many bad explications and expositions. But on the other side, we cannot accept the doctrine of Lord Cecil on the new birth and the double quickening; and we are very much grieved that Grant and his friends can take opportunity by the pamphlet of Lord Cecil to accuse you of bad doctrine.

3.- If therefore F.W.G. would have been amongst us, we would have rejected him as a teacher, as you have done and we would have forbidden him to speak in the meetings. We also find the conduct of Mr. Grant and his friends very rejectable and the setting up of a table in Craig St. to be totally against the word of God, so that we cannot be in communion with that gathering but must consider it as a party. But, beloved brethren, on the other side we cannot approve the exclusion of F.W.G. by your assembly. It appears to us to be not in accordance with the word of God, and done in haste. Not the assembly in Montreal, but that in Plainfield was called to exercise discipline in the case.

4.- We think it clear enough in the Scriptures, that every assembly must exercise discipline on its members. The assembly in Montreal had the right and duty if needed to reject Grant as a teacher and to forbid his speaking in the meetings, but it could not excommunicate him. For this you ought to have made an appeal to the gathering in Plainfield, and if Plainfield refused to act, you ought to have appealed to the other gatherings, and only then you could separate from Plainfield. We say this in the supposition that F.W.G. ought to have been excommunicated according to the word. It appears that you have felt this, because you have addressed yourself to Plainfield to ask the judgment and the communion of that gathering, in the exclusion of F.W.G. By this action you have acknowledged the right of Plainfield. But you ought to have done this before, not afterwards. We believe you ought to have waited and put the matter in the hands of the Lord who at His time and His manner it may be by conversion or by further manifestations of Grant, would have shown what must be done. Now the sad consequence is that most of the Assemblies in the States and the States are thrown in the arms of Grant, instead of being delivered from his influence. Further, the manner in which the exclusion has taken place appears to us not justifiable. What scriptural ground there may be found to declare incompetent the brethren who were under admonishment and the young brethren. Would it now have been better to wait on the Lord, who then would have taken the matter in His Hands?

5.- We think also that the reason you give to justify the excommunication of W.G. is not justified. The four points you give contain no teaching by which the fundamental truths of christianity are attacked and till then no party had been formed by Grant, as far as we can see. If you would not have gone farther than Romans 16-17. the Lord would have manifested him more and more. and then it would have become clear to all that he could not longer remain in our midst. We believe beloved brethren, that it would be well pleasing to the Lord if you could humble yourselves before Him and could confess to Him that you have acted hastily, we think that you are obliged to recall what you have done, although we know very well that you cannot accept Grant and his friends, if they do not confess their sin of erecting a new table in Craig St. We pray the Lord that He may give you the right feelings and an humble mind to do His will.

Your most affectionate brethren in Christ,

(signed) N.C. Voorhoeve, Jr.