

Ohio Wesleyan University

Digital Commons @ OWU

Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

6-19-1823

Letter from William Blair to James B. Finley

William Blair

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters>

Recommended Citation

Blair, William, "Letter from William Blair to James B. Finley" (1823). *Finley Letters*. 11.
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters/11>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.

not see what more I could do I had already —
made all the satisfaction that I could and if —
more was required I could not give it; he again
repeated what he had previously stated but
added that I had better attend; I accordingly
attended and when I was interrogated by the
Committee whether guilty or not (guilty) I told him
in as mild a manner as I was capable of
speaking that I was guilty. and immediately
added that I had stated the whole matter to
the society and the committee was all —
present made every acknowledgment that
I could. ~~He~~ replied in about as rough a manner
as a Virginia negro driver would to his
slave that "such a crime as mine deserved two
or three acknowledgements and that if the
~~society~~ committee decided in my favour unless
I made an acknowledgment to him he would
appeal it" This reply before I was done saying what
I intended to say very much aroused my temper and
there was a pretty warm altercation ensued and
a great deal too much bad feeling manifested on
both sides. I finally left the house. I have since
been informed by the committee as at least
a majority of them that he intended on with

Ridgville June 19th 1823

Dear Sir Yours of the 12th inst. has safely
reached me and I feel thankful to you
for the interest and anxiety you appear
to manifest for my eternal happiness. —
You say that it will never do for me to give
up Religion, I can assure you that I feel
as little inclined to give it up as I ever
have since I commenced the Christian war-
fare. What ever you or others may think
of my conduct in the late transaction
that degraded me, I am perfectly willing
to leave the decision of the matter to the
Judge of all the earth, and until we all
arrive at that august tribunal I never
expect to have justice awarded me in that
particular transaction.

I am truly sensible of the advantages of —
belonging to the church, and I am also satis-
fied that there is 9 tenths of the members of this
society that would be glad and willing to receive
me. But I can no more think of placing my-
self in a situation where the land of oppression
can reach me than I can of giving ^{up} the pursuit
of Religion. When I speak of oppression you will
not understand me as censuring the discipline
of the Methodist church but the abuse of that
discipline, when I was accountable in the fault.

^{Sanctified} ~~I~~ ^{for} my duty in the discipline and the
word of God, I saw that I must make some
satisfaction and took the very first oppor-
tunity when the society was all together to —
make a candid confession of the whole —
without seeking to cover or palliate in the
smallest particulars. The whole society did
manifest the most unequivocal reconciliation
to me and was afterwards approved by Nathanial. When
that he had conversed with almost the whole

society and they were perfectly satisfied with
me there was two others implicated in the same
affair who never made the least confession —
though they had both had an opportunity
in class meeting. Some days after I had made my
confession to the church I heard that there was
a committee raised and a letter was dispatched
to the Elders informing him of the time and place
of meeting, but what the business was that
was to come before the society I knew
not, in the course of three or four days
I was informed by one of the others that was
implicated in the same transaction that he
was cited to appear, I asked him if I was
to appear also he replied that he could
not tell but he rather expected not as
the class leader had informed him that
they were all perfectly satisfied with me.
Things passed on in this way until about
26 hours before the time of meeting and then
I was informed by the class leader that I
must attend. I told him that I did

William Blair
Indyville
June 19 1823

Mr. Blair
Indyville
Indyville

Rev James B. Finley
Upper Canada
Chgo

the other two and put it to vote on this case
whether they should be continued on trial but
as for me he would not suffer a vote on
the case but ordered my name stricken
off as his own responsibility.

Now I do not attempt to justify myself in the
commission of the crime though I must add
that it was an accident that has and in
all probability will in future happen to better
men than either the Eliott or myself, neither
do I attempt to justify myself in getting
in a passion for I know that it was long for
me to get mad because he did, but one
thing I must say that I believe (let others think
as they may) that I was sacrificed on the
altar of a much worse principal than
that which originated my crime, for the
crime I committed was the result of an
accidental contingency; but my expulsion
was premeditated.

Since I was born never has any thing took place
that has caused me so much trouble I have felt the

the rankings of Genghis turning about my
heart and in some instances has suffered
them to escape my lips in no instance more
than in some observations in my first letter
to you about Mr. Brock. But my mind is
now calm and I devoutly pray that all the
bad feelings and expressions may be buried
in the impenetrable depths of eternal
oblivion. I shall endeavor to square my life
according to the words of God and trust
to the merits of a bleeding Saviour for my
eternal salvation.

Mr. Giffis still holds my note for a balance
he has taken your note out of my hands
and has left this settlement. How long
he will be absent I know not. He agreed
before he started before he went away
that the money might lay in our hands
until the suit was decided if you want
to stop the interest on yours you can
either deposit with me and take my receipt
or transfer it to me and let it lay in
your own hands, he told me to remove

the money if you wanted to pay it and
give my receipt in his name. The reason
that he took the note away was for fear
that it would be attached in my hands
to satisfy debts that accrued on an
arbitration. You can use your pleasure
about it there is no danger of your
being sued while it is in Giffis' hands
I shall keep mine back until the suit is
determined however that is his right
the decree that the court made was only
a conditional one I have little or no
doubt but Bro. Burr will hold the land.

Give my respects to those who may
think me worth enquiring after, excuse my
long letter, write me again soon and bid
to be your firm friend and well wisher.

William Harris

Rev. James B. Finley

P.S. all well at the Brock last evening