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James B. Finley Letters

3-19-1823

Letter from Samuel Baker to James B. Finley

Samuel Baker

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5	20	1.20
2	90	99
3	20	51
4	21	75
		1.60
		49

Rev James B. Finley
 African Society
 Church Street
 March 28-33

James B. Finley
 March 19 1823

River Reason March 19th 1823

Dear Brother Finley.

I take the liberty once more to bother you with my poor scribbling. I hope you will bear with me. I am blessed with health except a cough. My design in writing to you at this time is to let you know my situation and submit myself to your direction. Since I left the Mission House I have met with some disappointments. Last December when Br. Brunson returned from Meggs he proposed to me a division of the Circuit and wished me to take the Rivers Miami Reason and Huron but as I thought his proposal unpractical and unreasonable I did not consent to it. I then went to Meggs the third time and returned the 12th of January which was the time of our 2. M. in Detroit. I then found him sick. I then consented to return and stay till the 2. M. in this place on the 16. of February I expected he would then go to Meggs, but was disappointed he came in a stage with some of the Friends and returned.

with them, he then promised me that if I would
would go to Meggs twice more and return to
Detroit on the 12th of March he would take
one route to Meggs I accordingly done so,
and when I arrived in Detroit he was gone from
home and his wife told me that it was
impossible for him to go that he was unwell
and that her own health was so poor that she
could not consent to have him go if he were
well, I saw there was no other chance but to
turn back about and go back. I have now
dispaired of his coming on to this part of the
Circuit any more. he has taken in some
Borders and a hired Girl and I expect has
enough to do at home. I intend to stay till
Camp meeting which is to commence the 23 of May
hoping that you will be with us then, if not
before, I do not think it will be possible for
me to stay any longer unless I get some pecuniary
aid, my expenses are great on this River I have to
pay all my Horses feed at a dear rate also on the
River Huren there is scarcely any feed to be
had a number of creatures are dying here with
poverty

The snow at this time is about six inches deep
the Shabitanee say they have never had so
hard a winter here before, Mr. Tate I have reason
to believe has done his utmost to set his members
against us they are not so friendly as they were before
he came, times are dull here in every sense of the
word, the Roads at this time are almost impassable
if you do not come out this spring write to me
and let me know what to do - I am still
striving in much weakness to urge my way through
grace to the climes of eternal glory, my

love to all the Mission Family I remain
your unworthy Brother in Christ

J. B. F.

Samuel Baker