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James B. Finley Letters

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Letter from Thomas S. Hitt to James B. Finley

Thomas S. Hitt

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L. S. Hill
May 1823

Charleston
May 3rd
paid 25

Rev James B. Furley
Upper Sandusky Ohio

James B. Furley
Upper Sandusky Ohio

Rev. A. Dear Sir

I embraced this opportunity to address you, but confess I am at a great loss what to say, more especially as my former address remains unanswered. After waiting patiently, and waiting in vain, I finally despair of getting a letter from you at all. As it is more blessed to give, than to receive, I brook every difficulty and present you with this scroll; which will contain the native native language of my heart. And I hope, have the happy tendency of uniting us more firmly, in the bonds of brotherly love. and deliver your mind from that suspense under which it may possibly exist, in regard to my present situation. My protracted debility forces me to inform you, I am able to preach but very little. since February I filled but two appointments; my health not being as good as it was in the winter. The prospect of my being fully restored is rather discouraging. I think travelling last Fall was the most benefit to me, of thing I have tried. Since my arrival here, my time has been devoted (as much as propriety would permit) to reading and studying. Dr Reid's work has been quite edifying to me. Previous to my illness, I had commenced learning the Greek with which I am much pleased at present. and believe with the advantage of health, and a good teacher, I could translate, through the course of one season. Some other good works on theology I have read with pleasure and great satisfaction. But all this is only a subordinate point. The science of holy living. I try to make my chief study. pray for my success.

I shall enclose to you a minute of the Baltimore Conference, probably it may be some satisfaction to you, Bishop McAndrew attended the conference also Bishop George they both were in usual health.

Mr Keyholds wife died recently she expired in the triumphs of faith. and no doubt while seven young children, and an affectionate husband is lamenting her absence from the Church militant, an abundant entrance is administered unto her in the Church triumphant. precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. There many deaths here, and the people complain of sickness. Bro Willis is very unwell he has had the ague ever since last summer with but little intermission. Bro Merit was sick all winter but is much better at present. He was married the third of last month to Miss Hershey. an heiress and we live near Mousborough, on the farm where he married. his wife is a very meek, sedate, amiable ^{plain} and industrious girl. I fear I shall intrude on your patience, by my long barren address. Tho I have asked a correspondence in vain, surely I shall not ask an interest in your prayers in vain.

The time, and distance, that has parted me from the place appointed for me to labour I have no doubt will open the mouths of some (as I have had intimations already) but I hope much will not be said until the subject is better matured. for I assure you, it is with an ^{eye} to the glory of God, I have come here. My sole object is to recruit my health

My exercises of mind is serious, under those peculiar circumstances. Sometimes my peace flows as a river, and at all times. I would rather lay down my life (if it were required than) than to let the ministerial character and prove obnoxious to the cause of God. Sometimes discontentment intrudes itself on my felicity, and I descend from the mountain of prayer and praise to the slough of despond, so that my mind cannot be compared to an Ocean perfectly calm and pacific: but to one on which we observe periodical winds, until a commotion from the heart, allays the boisterous mind, and commands its tumultuous waves be still. give my love to Sister Faby Mrs Brooke & Sister Brook accept this from your unworthy friend in Christ
J. J. H. H.
Wm B. Faby

may 3. 1823