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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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8-30-1823

## Letter from Nathaniel McLean to James B. Finley

Nathaniel McLean

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Columbus, Aug 30, 1823.

Brother Amos

I snatch a moment from other

avocations to inform you that in the ~~midst~~  
midst of surrounding affliction the Lord has  
permitted me to enjoy a tolerable degree of  
health. You have doubtless heard that I have  
been appointed keeper of the Penitentiary in  
the room of our Br Wright deceased. My family  
is as yet at Ridgeville. Whether I shall continue  
in this office longer than the close of the new  
legislature depends upon the contingency of my  
own disposition after a further trial of the bu-  
siness and that of the Legislature to continue. The  
office has its disagreeables but upon the whole  
it is not more unpleasant than I anticipated.  
In a summary point of view the office is a  
good one and I love the people of Columbus.  
The insalubrity of the place this year has been alarm-  
ing but other places have been equally visited.  
There are local causes existing however that will  
always render it more unhealthy than our Ridge-  
ville. Little did I think two years ago that our  
little society at Ridgeville would be so widely  
scattered - one at Sandusky, one at Washington

being - I should be glad to have a line at any time  
your business may permit - should you go to Ridge-  
ville call & see my family  
your friend

Rev J B Finley -

Nathaniel Wilson

Rev C. W. H. H. H.

Rev J. B. Finley

(this)

Nathaniel Wilson

Scott M. Wilson

for post  
pay



and one at Columbus, may we not expect if  
we are faithful all to meet one day in the  
Kingdom of heaven and spend an eternity to-  
gether. May the Lord grant it for the Redeemer's  
sake. I am pleased to hear you are prospering  
at Sandusky. You have had my absent good wishes  
and that is all from my situation. I have been  
enabled to give as yet almost. The friends from  
Columbus that attended at Delaware conference  
were much pleased with our new brethren. I expect  
they can teach us lessons of meekness, simplicity  
and humble love.

I have one or two requests to make for Colum-  
bus and shall expect your influence. First  
I want the next conference to be held. I think  
ample provision can be made to accommodate  
the preaching and it is certainly eligible as to  
its locality. Whether I come here or not they can  
support the conference. Should I live and my lot  
be cast among this people I am willing to pay  
myself all the bills of preaching that may ac-  
cure for want of accommodations.

Another request is that you will aid us in  
getting good preaching. We are satisfied with

the preaching of the last year but it is hardly pro-  
bable they will both be returned. The probability is  
feather heads will remain, thus I apprehend will  
be pleasing to all. No doubt but we shall have  
one new one. Who will it be? I will not pre-  
sume to name one, but it is absolutely im-  
portant to the good cause here that we should  
have men not only of piety but understand-  
ing also. You know what a place of resort  
this is, particularly in winter and shall not  
the Capitol of Ohio be furnished with able  
preaching? Our doctrines ought to be widely  
disseminated and an able ministry here of  
attracting public attention would diffuse  
in every direction.

I am not for blending religion and po-  
litics together, but good men I apprehend may  
attend in some measure to the latter without  
lessening their devotion to the former. If you  
talk on that subject with you, think a word  
for our Calhoun. I believe he comes the near-  
est a good man then either of the candidates. -  
late accounts east & south are flattering. He is in