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James B. Finley Letters

9-13-1823

Letter from Harriet Stubbs to James B. Finley

Harriet Stubbs

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make; yet this seems denied me; before I came away, she seemed to dislike my very appearance, but I cannot but feel distressed while separated so many miles from her; I am constantly fearing she may want my attention, But why have I troubled you my dear friend with my uneasiness; I can make no excuse for thus encroaching on your time only your former indulgence and my present melancholly feelings which I will not indulge so freely again. forgive me then if I have presumed to far.

I will only add that we are all well and wish to be remembered by you and sister Findley. sister and Mr McLean in particular send their love to you, Your friend Mr Lucas from St Louis came here yesterday and is still with us, I am pleased to hear of the prosperity of the mission, and wish I could be there to enjoy it as you do. Give my love to Mrs S. I told her I would be much pleased to receive a letter from her, and hope she is pleased with her interesting employment, do my friend prevail on her to correspond with me; if agreeable to herself, it would gratify me much.

Please remember me to my friends, Mr Maria and Eliza I am glad to hear they have embraced religion it is the only thing in this world that is worth their attention, If it would not be too much trouble I should like to see the letter you mentioned from New York please send it inclosed in a cover to Mr McLean, and also one from yourself if the muses will again visit you. Altho no longer a missionary I feel interested in all that concerns those who are engaged in so glorious a work. but I am again trespassing upon your time, which can be better employed than in reading the long letter of your obliged

Rev'd James B Findley

give my love to Jane

friend H. S.

George Town Sept. 13 1823

My Dear friend

Though I long since intended writing you a long letter, yet now I have attempted it I scarcely know how to proceed I have so many things to say to you, I have just been looking over your kind letter of July 12 and cannot express the ^{great} gratitude for the lively interest you express for my eternal happiness. I will endeavour by assisting ^{grace} to follow you excellent advice, for never was I in a ^{situation} that I more needed it than at the present time.

Though I very seldom enter into gay company, yet in my present situation is sometimes unavoidable; but I never do without feeling a considerable try it. Many of our acquaintances are of the most fashionable people in Georgetown and the City. How vastly different are the manners and customs here to what I have ever been accustomed to, I fear I shall never become reconciled to the change. They visit here almost entirely by cards, yet this is sometimes very convenient as by this means you can see company or not just as you please. ~~where~~ a carriage is driven to the door full of ladies who send a servant to know if your at home if you do not choose to see them you can tell your own servant to tell them you are out indisposed or so engaged that you cannot see them which is perfectly understood by the visitors. if on the contrary you wish to see them they are invited into a room by the servant, who gives them your compliments and tells them you will do yourself the honour or pleasure to wait on them in a few minutes when you go into the room they converse with you about 10 or 12 minutes and then take their leave. I have been obliged to receive a dozen such visits between the hours of 10 and 1 as this is the fashionable time for making visits. O how I despise such formality

for my part I feel extremely awkward and unhappy in such company
but all our acquaintances are not like those I have just mentioned
to you. I think I have met with some of the excellent of the earth
and am very much pleased with the methodist society here.
I have become very much attached to two or three methodist families,
whom I frequently visit in sociable way, and after a morning spent
in ~~with~~ receiving such visits as I have before hinted at, you have
never idea of the pleasure and relief these sweet society afford me.
I hear it is very sickly in Ohio I am afraid that you and sister
Finley will again experience inconvenience from your present
situation, tell my dear (mother) (I had like to have said mother
but she will not suffer me call her by that tender epithet)
well then, tell my dear sister Finley that I wish more than ever
to see her, that I have a thousand things to tell her that I cannot
burst on paper; and that I hope she will not disappoint our fond
hopes of that pleasure, by not coming with you to conference.

I am not alone in making this request, the whole family join me
in it; but as it all depends upon your self my dear friend
beg you not to leave her behind. —
Georgetown is a beautiful place and in my opinion far superior
to the City. Though there are not so many handsome buildings in it
the situation is much higher and the town has a very rural
appearance. The finest trees which in Ohio are cut down from
around the houses are here left standing and I think adds much
to the beauty of the place; and it is not unfrequently that
you see a house surrounded with oak sycamore and mulberry
trees. We have a delightful residence, which is situated on
one of the beautiful heights of Georgetown; commanding a view of
the City the Potomack and Alexandria which is 8 miles distant.
I am much pleased with some of the public buildings particularly
the Capital and the Presidents house, which would baffle my

weak attempts to describe them. There are a great number
of Catholics here, I have been twice to their Church to witness
their ceremonious worship; and the profound reverence they pay
to the pictures with which their church is adorned, made me
feel quite disagreeable; The gross ignorance in which they are
kept by their Priests really provokes me. One evening a Catholic
young lady with whom I was much pleased spent the evening
with us after tea a walk was proposed I took a direction
which led to the methodist meeting house in hopes she would
be prevailed upon to go in as meeting was just opening, but
I found her as averse to entering as if she had expected immediate
distinction in the attempt, and seemed to lament that so many
were under such delusion. Though every thing ^{is} new to me, and I to
my friends appear to enjoy myself very well; yet they do not see my
heart, I feel an increasing wish to return to Ohio. yet I feel it is
not wise that I should repine at my lot, which far superior to what
I deserve or have a right to expect; I will at least seem happy and
in time I shall be. But I have often do I wish for that sweet
retreat from the world which I once enjoyed at Sandusky.

One day I ventured to ask sister if she would again consent for me to
spend a few months at that delightful spot, but I was almost sorry
I had mentioned it, as she appeared ^{hurt} that I ~~can~~ should wish to leave
her, and ought I to have a wish that is not agreeable to her —
She that has so tenderly guarded the helpless orphan, that my
dear departed father committed to her care, and strengthened
by her good example the advice the rules he laid down for
my future conduct; Oh no I will submit and be thankful.
Uncertain and mysterious providence seems to hang over my future
prospects, I know not what is to become of my dear unhappy
mother, If I could do any thing which in least would contribute
to her happiness; there is no sacrifice I would not be willing to