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James B. Finley Letters

10-21-1823

Letter from John P. Johnston to James B. Finley

John P. Johnston

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I wish you settle with Mr. Lewis for the making of 1 shirt & pair of
 Pantaloons & pay him and add it to my ac when you write Direct
 to John Johnston Greenham's store Piqua

John Johnson Jun
 one of my
 work hands
 12th

Greenville Ohio
 Oct 23. 1823.

James B. Fishy, Missionary.
 W. Sandusky
 Dear Sir

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My Dear Uncle Finley, Greenville Oct. 21st 1823

I embrace the opportunity of addressing
 these few lines to you, wishing they may find you and all the
 Mission Family in good health. I need not tell how I have
 been since I left W. Sandusky, suffice it to say, the
 Jolting in the waggon to Urbana, together with the flux
 which attacked me shortly on my arrival in Piqua, wore me
 almost down to the grave. I have been here nearly five weeks
 during which time, I have Ejo better health than I have for some
 time back, although this is a very sickly place, they are dying
 in numbers in all directions, on my right hand, & on the left.
 yet thank God I still survive the dead. I should have written
 you this, according to promise, but as Mr. Johnston was going out
 I requested him to inform you, about my situation of health.
 At that time, then I contemplated on going to conference, to see you
 but was prevented by Indisposition, & concluding you & Mr. Fishy
 would go to Ridgville, I deferred writing until you would return
 to the Mission Establishment again. I have often felt vexed with
 myself for the manner in which I left you, that is to say in your
 Debt & without even settling with you, but be perfectly easy in
 your mind, as you or the Establishment shall lose nothing by me
 I hope you do not think hard of my not returning as you
 must be sufficiently aware that it was always my intention
 to fulfill my contract with you, and I assure you that
 nothing but the anxiety I felt to serve my appointed time, could
 have made me bore up against the many attacks of that

disagreeable disorder, which had become so rooted & grounded
in my system. I Desire to praise God for the prospect of health
and what I enjoy at the present time, since the weather became
cool I have gained beyond my expectation. yet if I had chop
stick of wood, I tremble as if subject to nervous complaint.
I am sometimes afflicted with the Rheumatism in my shoulder
but it seems to abate, however I have it in contemplation to
cross the Atlantic once more, if my health does not be suffi-
ciently restored, so as to enable ^{me} to pursue a more active life than
than the one I am now engaged in, I believe a life of inactivity
never was designed for me, I have spent three years in the wilder-
ness among my Brethren of the Forest, and I hesitate not
to say that in Reflection it constitutes a portion of the
happiest part of my life, My Brethren & sisters who are
employed in service of the Mission, may think they undergo
many privations, it is true they are debared in a great measure
~~from~~ from many of the comforts of life, but on the other
hand, they escape the snares & temptation of the world, they
are not liable to the off, and tempt to frequently cast the teeth of
professors of Religion, the conduct or misconduct of their Brethren
& sisters is seldom cast up to ^{their} ~~their~~ ~~as a~~ ~~disadvantage~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~mission~~ ~~service~~
it to say they are exempt from many of the diseases prevalent
in the world, I have not been at a meeting since I left Sandusky
but one, (with the exception of a few hours I went to a Newlight
since I came to this place) that, to hear Brother Mealy. I think
a good deal of him, I admire him for his Humility, but he does
not fill this place in my opinion, his Anecdotes & Quotations
are too private, but the fact is, they never will find a preacher
to visit them about Piqua. J. P. Wisley is the only one that
ever pleased them, there are good many of the professors like
myself not very ^{good} which furnish abundance of matter to ridicule

John Johnston seems much pleased with the Establishment and
thinks a great deal has been done for that nation, & a prospect
of doing more, if they will only be ^{permitted} ~~permitted~~ to remain there, yet
in conversation with me, ^{previous to his going out} he would not allow that there was could
result any thing for their benefit from any Establishment of the kind
but since he has been there he is of a different opinion, I have rec'd
a letter from Mr. Shaw and am very sorry to hear that all the
families around there are more or less afflicted with sickness, but
it is a General thing every place this season, I wish you to favour
me with a few lines when you receive this, and let me know how
you progress with business at the Mission house, what new Missionary
you have got on, and if the Extent of the Earth has found the
way there yet, how the Corn in bytrees Bottom Harvested, in the
mean time please to remember me to Aunt Pinky, Brother & Sister
Hooper, and all the Mission Family without Exception, particularly
to the children great & small, and likewise to the chiefs, tell
I hope to see them again once more, please to remember to Mr.
Shaw and Family, Brother Lewis & family, Mr. Walker and
Family, tell Brother William Walker I wish him to write to me
please to look over the imperfections in these few lines, as I have written most
of them, while conversing with person on other subjects, may the Lord
assist all your undertakings, & crown your Labours with success,
is the petition of your unworthy Brethren, John Johnston Grace
N. B. pray remember me to the friends of

B, send me the form of my ap and I will remit you
the Bal of what I owe you, if you will risk it, it is likely
I shall have to go to Delaware this fall yet, if I do I will go to
see you, I intend sending out a deed to Mr. Shaw to have Executed
between Cutting & I, tho the Lawyers advise me to throw it into
the Court of Equity at once, as it is his duty to tender me a deed, but
I shall avoid Law if I can, as neither he nor I has money to spare, Law
but if he refuses to make his obligation good there is no other alternative

we have got a pretty good Meeting house covered in at Piqua