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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

3-10-1824

Letter from James S. Reed to James B. Finley

James S. Reed

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Detroit Wednesday March 10. 1824.

Dr. Brother, Finley,

Phillipians 1. 3. Received your letter this day,
week and should have answered it immediately, ^{but} I did not know what were
the names of those persons who gave their hand to you the evening before you
left this, I have this week been enquiring the names and seeing how many
there were among them who could testify that Christ had power on earth to
forgive sins, more of this in the sequel, you mention in your letter that we
have not been as good as our word about writing you, true Dear Brother
that I did not write you so soon as I did intend - but still you was in
my mind more or less every day even to this time, you may think because
you are out of sight you are out of my mind as you mention in your letter
but be rest assured this is not the case, I have almost wished and indeed
I need not say almost but have actually wished that you could be
here and Sandusky at one and the same time, I am truly sorrow to hear
when referring to your letter again that you suffered some inconveniences from
sight waters, but as we are told that through much tribulation we shall enter
the Kingdom,

My heart begins to swell with gratitude and leaps within me
for joy when I hear, that so many with you have been convinced of the
error of their ways, and have sought the Lord who to find is life eter-
nal - I do bless and adore the worthy name of God that you ever was
sent here to labour with this people in word and in doctrine - your -

labour can be seen or at least the fruit of your labours, in the case of Stephen Hazel if no other, this Stephen is that coloured man that you spoke to on your way to Brother Abbotts the morning you left here when Brother Plimpton and myself was with you, truly Brother Finley (this man has experienced a change of heart, and I think an exemplary follower of our Lord Jesus Christ, and he says that he has great reason to Bless God that you ever visited this place - (in short Brother Finley) you have been the means of doing much good here during your last visit, do not think that I wish to flatter you but far from this - but in confirmation to this assertion I could if it was necessary have twenty of the Brethrens names -

many who were in the language of the Bible, sitting as it were in the region and shadow of death, are now lifting forth the praise of immannul

On last Monday night a week we had a prayer meeting at Brother Silsby's the house that Major Anderson formerly occupied and of a truth the Lord poured out his spirit there - Brother Delamater a shoe maker by occupation who has joined our society since you left here declared in this meeting that he never knew before what the methodists shouted for and made so much noise but that he then knew and could help, Indeed it is astonishing to see what a Bustle and Stir there are among the people, some wanting to take us by the hand and go with us to heaven, But ah one says that my husband is not willing an other says if there was not so much talk about the methodists they would join with them, as they like their doctrine the Best -

But as saint Paul says in one of his epistles I think to the Romans, The carnal mind is at enmity with God is not subject to the Law of God neither indeed can be, so it appears that they that are carnally minded can not please God. there are good many persons here who would like to become religious if they could obtain religion on their own plan but alas this will not do. But bless God Brother that there are some here that are willing to be called even the filth and offscouring of the earth so they but win Christ, to the joy and satisfaction of our souls, as Christ has told in plain terms that we must become willing to become or to ^{be} counted fools in order that he would make us wise - Now give you the names of those who were convicted under your preaching while here last - 1. Mary Noble, who gave her hand to you and on the Monday evening following joined our society, but has been in doubt this some time and I think owing to nothing else but that Mr Moore the Presbyterian minister has been distributing some books, treating on the uselessness of works within ourselves, which you ^{know} is directly calculated to lead the infant mind in Christ into despair 2. Temperance Merton, one who also gave her hand, and have experienced a change of heart and belongs to society - 3. Prudence Merton, who also gave her hand and belongs to society, and I believe has an evidence of her sins forgiven, George Dunks, did not give his hand but is the one who cried so and who Brother Pattee and Brother Plimpton prayed for so earnestly, that night before you left here, the Matter by trade

as I informed you, he joined society the Sunday following after
you left here and in three or four weeks were caught in the Ball Room
and even danced, and it really seem'd that ^{patin} must have them a little
longer to sift them as wheat as one of the opposites declares, but it
did not rest long so with our punches, he was as the common
saying is, half^d over the coals, and he confessed that he was there
and said at his trial that as he was there he considered it no more
harm to dance than to be there, and look at them, and it was
agreed upon by the Brethren that he should continue on his trial
and indeed it has been a lesson to him, he has now taken hold
the gospel plow with more earnestness - the Balance of the names I will
now insert - the ones that gave their hands or at least the Balance of the
of the ones I insert the first (Alice Jackson) Charlotte Ann Taylor,
Rebecca Sacket Rebecca Sibly Giff M. Clain, Hannah Eaton. I would
not be certain that the last one mentioned on this list gave her hand
to you to receive the Benefits of your prayers - But the ~~whole~~ whole
of the last mentioned persons are now enjoying the peaceable fruits
of Righteousness, which is joy and peace in the holy Ghost. the Balance
of the names that was convicted under your sermon on Sunday
at M. Robert Wagstaff Arthur Edwards, Arthur Edwards
a young man who lives with Colo Hunt wishes you to receive
his compliments, and says you was the means of convincing him
of the error of his way, he says he wishes your prayers, and he intends
by the assistance of Gods grace he intends to make his peace calling
and election sure with God -

Everyone that gave their hands to you the Sunday evening
before you left here has joined the Church but Mrs Converse
and presume she would had it not been that Mr Converse
was so opposed to it. However he and her has joined the
Presbyterian Society last Sunday and received the sacrament
and on Monday evening went to a wedding where was
fiddling and dancing - No more at Present but
that I am well and am yet halting between two opinions
and hope that I shall before long be fully convinced
what my duty is, Bro Dean and family wishes to be remem-
bered to you. likewise Bro. Sockwood and family, and Bro Abbott
and family, they all send their endearing love to you and
all your family - -

Dear Br Should you feel disposed I should like for
you to write me so soon as conference is over and state to me who
are to fill this circuit or remain in Detroit ~~Senior~~ ~~Senior~~ ~~Senior~~ that
you and Brothr Strange may be the persons - I hope that you
will use your influence to have this place set out as a district so
we can be blessed with more quarterly meetings, and the company
and visits of P. Elders -
Remain dear Brothr - your sincere
- in Brothr in Christ Jesus -
Rev J. P. Finley -
J. A. Reed

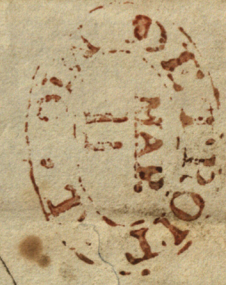
please
Shake hands with Brother Sharp for me

J. S. Sharp

Rev. J. B. Finley

All the Brethern wishes to be remembered to you

James D. Beck



For James D. Finley

Staubenville

Jefferson County Ohio

via upon hand

1855
Paid

X