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James B. Finley Letters

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Letter from Nathaniel McLean to James B. Finley

Nathaniel McLean

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Rev. James B. Finley,

McLean, (Ohio)

J. McLean Esq
Columbus

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Columbus, Aug 1829.

Bro Finley,

Our Camp Meeting has just closed
we have had a good time for Columbus, many
have been brought from darkness to the mar-
vellous light, which the religion of Christ of-
fers, my wife professes to feel the love of God
shed abroad in ^{her} heart and two of my chil-
-dren little Sophia & Lono have set out for
the Kingdom, the elder Sophia I think gives
good evidence that she has been born again.
You know I am one of the dry kind
but I feel like praising God for what he
hath done for me and mine. Brother
Smealum can give you all the particu-
-lars - I have some thoughts of writing to
McLean during the conference, if all is
well and business will permit I may be there
but am not certain. I feel a deep inter-
-est in the welfare of the church here &
I want you to keep us, notwithstanding
we are not under your particular
charge to be well supplied. Next year -
we will have say 20 additions to the
taron society, which will increase our
number to 170 and it is my opinion
and I believe the opinion of nearly all
that we to be much relied on as it regards

the temporal of the church - that we should have
a stationed preacher in Columbus. Our members
perhaps would not entirely justify it but taken
in connexion with the local situation of
the place, the great resort here from all
parts of the state in the winter &c. should in-
clude this cause. We could support a single
man with ease, and I have no doubt but
that a married man would get more
heard than an one half the winter in the
conference. Bro Bishop McRendree knows
my views upon the subject. If we do not
obtain a station, an arrangement by which
we could have constant aid of preaching
is all important -

at the request of Brother Mixson I write this
to you that he wishes to be employed the coming
year on a circuit upon your District. I
understand he does not apply to conference
for admission into the traveling connexion
but would like to fill some vacancy to be
supplied by the elders upon trial - Bro M
has lately lost his wife and broke up house-
-keeping, and says he has felt for years &
thinks it his duty to preach the gos-
-pel - You know the man, but perhaps have
never heard him preach - his piety is not
questioned here - he preaches with zeal, his
talents ordinary, and his education defective
he might improve and perhaps in some
places be useful, I have always been, and
still am in favor of qualifications, but

a man approaches the sacred desk. Under all
the circumstances however, I should suppose Bro
M might have a trial with propriety in the
way he mentions, and his gifts & graces thereby
tested. We are in ordinary haste -

Yours truly

R. McLean