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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

9-16-1829

Letter from George S. Houston to James B. Finley

George S. Houston

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Recommended Citation

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Dear Brother,

I wrote you by Bro Cotton
and have since received yours with \$10 inclosed.
The letter soliciting your aid to have brother
Raper stationed here, I wrote at earnest solici-
tation, I told them plainly I can decide
the success of applications very irregular
I assure you I should be pleased that
Brother Raper could spend a year with us,
but consider it would require \$700 at
least, that the brethren rely too much on
what the Manors would do to help, that to
solicit a married preacher they should con-
sider they have never yet paid \$80 a year
Quarterage, the society does no great toward
supporting a Sunday school, has no tract
society, no Missionary society, pay nothing
to the preachers fund, very few belong to
any Bible society and as few even sub-
scribe to the Christian Advocate, yet
we are looking for help from without and
spend so little among ourselves or rather
to help our (methodist) institutions, that a
preacher stationed with us the following
year would be of material service I have
no doubt and would feel truly anxious to see

Brother Cotton



The Rev. James B. Hinley
of the Methodist Conference
Chillicothe

George J. Shoultz
1829

I have more to write, I mean to say, but I have
to close this much, I will write again - I feel my
dear Brother strongly urged, many friends & friends
have sent me of late, but I hope the Lord will
restore me to his favor and give to enjoy a season
rest and hear of more that will lead me up
and use the Word of Life, & beg you to pray for
me and may God send you grace
Yours affectionately
George J. Shoultz

But it is a matter that should be well considered
Can we support a married Preacher, all say
none but Bro Raper and why him, because
he is a Mason, they are anxious he should be
stationed here, and will he have as much
general influence on this account or is it
likely he will benefit them or be the
instrument of converting any of them to
religion, let us charitably hope he may,
but would he be willing to come, I have
heard yesterday he would rather remain at
Lebanon, but though I was eminently solici-
tous to write you, which I have done, I think
it looks so irregular to ask Conference to
make this a station and say to them who
to send, in other words, send us brother
Raper or none, I inadvertently ask
you to consider my two letters, what
you know of Dayton, its prospective in-
crease in population, the increase of other
denominations, the influence of a
pious, worthy preacher stationed in the
place, the situation we are in, while
others have a preacher here who devotes
his time here to the ministry, we have not,

of our local Brethren Ashton, Sullivan &
Earley, neither collect more than a moderate
congregation or do they appear to have in-
fluence, I mean no disrespect toward them
in this, but I am writing to one to whom I
write plainly, and say after considering
the whole matter, I hope you will use your
own judgment and recommend what you
consider for the best under all the cir-
cumstances, I have honestly stated the sub-
ject, I have my doubts about making it a
station, unless under the special direction of
the presiding Elder, I think if we had a
single preacher the first year, who would
be acceptable it would be best, this is my
own opinion, as the society solicit Bro.
Raper only from the reasons before
stated - For the cause of Methodism
in Dayton it is necessary some other
method was adopted, as we seem
at a stand or decline at this time,
nor has Methodism the influence here
you or I wish it, I anxiously wish to
see old Methodism revived here and
flourishing. It wants rich preaching.

Houston_ab73

September 16, 1829

Dear Brother,

I wrote you by Bro Cottom and have since received yours with \$10 enclosed. The letter soliciting your aid to have Bro Raper stationed here I wrote at circuit solicitation. I told them plainly I considered the forms of application very irregular. I assure you I should be pleased that Brother Raper could spend a year with us, but consider it would require \$200 at least, that the brethren rely too much on what the Masons would do to help, that to solicit a married preacher they should consider they have never yet paid \$80 a year quarterage. The society does no great _____ supporting a Sunday School, has no tract society, no missionary society, pay nothing to the preachers fund. Very few belong to any Bible Society and as few even subscribe to the Christian Advocate. Yet we are looking for help from without and spend so little among ourselves or nothing to help our (Methodist) institutions, that a preacher stationed with us the following year would be of material service, I have no doubt, and would feel truly anxious to see.

But it is a matter that should be well considered . Can we support a married preacher. All say none but Bro Raper and why him, because he is a Mason. They are anxious he should be stationed here, and will he have as much general influence on this account or is it likely he will benefit them or be the instrument of connecting any up there to religion. Let us charitably hope he may, but would he be willing to come, I have heard yesterday he would rather remain at Lebanon, but though I was earnestly solicited to write you, which I have done, I think it looks so irregular to ask Conference to make this a station and say to them who to send. In other words, send us Brother Raper or none. I individually wish you to consider my two letters, what you know of Dayton, its prospective increase in population, the increase of other denominations, the influence of a pious, worthy preacher stationed in the place, the situation we are in, while others have a preacher here who devotes his time here to the ministry, we have not. Of our Local Brethren Ashton, Sullivan & Early, neither collect more than a moderate congregation or do they appear to have influence. I mean no disrespect toward them in this, but I am writing to one to whom I write plainly and say after considering the whole matter, I hope you will use your own judgment and recommend what you consider for the best under all the circumstances. I have honestly stated the subject. I have my doubts above making it a station, unless under the official direction of the Presiding Elder. I think if we had a single preacher the first year, who would be acceptable, it would be best, this is my opinion, as the society solicit Bro. Raper only from the reasons before stated. For the cause of Methodism in Dayton it is necessary some other method was adopted, as we seem at a stand or decline at this time, nor has Methodism the influence here you

or I wish it. I anxiously wish to see old Methodism revived here and flourishing -- It wants such preaching.

I have more to write, more to say, but it is time to close this mail. I will write again. I feel my dear Brother strangely altered. Many trials and troubles have beset me of late, but I hope the Lord will restore me to his favor and give to enjoy a calmness and peace of mind that will bear me amid all the storms of life. I beg you to pray for me and may Israel's Lord bless you.

I am as ever your friend, Geo S. Houston