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Letter from George S. Houston to James B. Finley

George S. Houston

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Dear Brother,

I write you by Mrs. Cartner and have here received your note of 600 dollars. The letter lubricating your mind to have a brother paper stationed here, I wrote at earliest information, I think them plainly. I can declare the enormity of applications, very irregular. I think you will be pleased to hear Brother Designo could spend a year with us, but consider it would require 1000, at least; that the brethren help too much or what the designlers would do to help, that is a measure to do when they consider they have never yet paid 100 a year. Therefore, the society does not lack, not from twenty or twenty-five school, but not great society. Mr. Mehler very necessary, now nothing to the present and fund, may your being to any Bible society can, or as here even such be the Christian Advocate, yet we are looking for help from without 100 and in little among ourselves matter, to help our (methodist) institutions, that a preacher stationed with us the following year would be of material service. You can doubt once and would feel truly appointed to see
But it is a matter that require the called considerate care we support a Married Preacher, all say none less. Mr. Wm. Rasor as I why here, because he is a Mason, they are anxious he should be stationed here, and in it he have a much general influence on this account or is it likely he will benefit them or be the instrument of connecting any of the other religious, let us charitably hope he may. Last month he was willing to come, I have read yesterday he was not to remain at Selkirk, but though I was evidently about to write you, which I have done, which it looks so irregular to ask Conferences to make the two motions and pay them when to rend in another words, send it as brother Rasor or name, I distinctly wish you to consider my two letters, while you know at Dayton, its prosperous in commerce as population, the increase of others community towns, the influence of its borders, worthy preacher stationed in the place, the education on areas, while others have a preacher here who devotes his time here to the ministry, we have, of our local Ministers Abbot, Sullivan. Early, neither collect more than a moderate congregation or do they appear to have an influence, I mean no disrespect to the others as they, 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 fair, for the last under all the circumstances, I have honestly stated the facts, just I have my doubts about making it station in looks under the special direction of the Presiding Elder, if I think of we had a single preacher the first year, who wants he accepts all it would be least, this is my own opinion, as the senior chief Mr. Rasor only from the reasons herefore stated. -- For the cause of the Wesleyan in Dayton if it is necessary, some other Methodist was adopted to, as we seem to be strangers or decline at this time, now has Methodism the influence here up our time to it, I cannot only wish to see all the Methodist remain here and flourishing, it wants such preaching.
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