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Letter from George S. Houston to James B. Finley

George S. Houston

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The Rev. James D. Hardy
29 North 2nd St.
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Brother,

I write to you by Mrs. Calvert and have since received your notice of $100. In the letter refuting your view that the brethren stated in a letter of mine to a minister of a different denomination, I stated the reason why I cannot direct the funds of applications very rigorously. If I should be pleased to do so, I should be pleased to do so. I am, therefore, prepared to spend a year with us, but consider it would be requisite. If we at least, that the brethren help so much as to what the Methodists would do to help, that is, a Mission. So when they consider they have never yet spent $50 a year. December 10th, the society does not seem to be growing, but no system of school that will not result in the present year, 1850, any society, as nothing to the present. I have been in the business of the Christian Advocate, yet we are looking for help from the publication of my book on the subject of Methodism, 1828. I should be of material service. I have no doubt, and shall feel truly aggrieved to see...
But it is a matter that should be well considered. Can we support a Married Preacher all say none last. Mr. Raper on why he did because he is a Mason; they are anxious he should be stationed here, and I believe he has not much general influence on that account or if it likely he will benefit there or be the instrument of connecting any of them to religion, let us charitably hope he may; but unless he be willing to come, I have heard yesterday he will never remain at Shelburn. Indeed though I was very much afraid to write you, which I have done, think it looks too irregular to ask Conference to make this a station and pay to them when to send in other words, send as your Raper on money, I am certainly wish you to consider my two letters, while you know of Dayton, its prospective increase in population, the increase of other denominations, the influence of friends, worthy Preachers stationed in the place, the situation one anxious, while others have a preacher here who devote his time here to the ministry, we have, of our local worth to Mr. Sublime. Early, neither collect more than a moderate congregation or do they appear to have no influence. I mean no disrespect to those in this, let me not write to you to whom I write plainly, and very often 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 whole, and I trust you will consider. I have been afraid about the place, that I have my doubts about making it a station in love 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 least, this is my own opinion, as the anxiety世界各地. Preachers only from the reasons because stated.– For the cause of Methodism in Dayton it is necessary, some other Methodist was admitted, as we seem to bestands, or decline at this time, now has Methodism the influence here open, or I must to, I am generally movable to see all Methodism renewed here and flourishing. It wants rich 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