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James B. Finley Letters

5-18-1830

Letter from James Gilruth to James B. Finley

James Gilruth

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Recommended Citation

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J. B. Finley
 1830

J. B. Finley

James B. Finley

Cincinnati - Ohio

Granville
 May 14

May 18th 1830 Granville Ohio

Bro J. B. Finley I embrace this moment (the time with a hard days pressing on) with feeling friendship to thee & gratitude to God - to request a favour from thee -

On the 22^d of last Feb My Brother in law Wm. S. Thomas died in Cincinnati at a boarding house kept by a Mr Hails. he was a man of respectability & particularly dear to me, rendered so by a long & intimate acquaintance - he was not a professed of Religion; tho serious, & friendly thru to: - he went down to lay in some goods, & when there, took sick & died before any of his friends could see him. - I have not been able to learn the particulars of his death in a reference to Religion - I have, & do feel much anxiety to be informed on this point. When I first heard of his death, I had some hope that ~~before~~ you might have visited him: this I was led to indulge, because as you & I were acquainted, I thought perhaps he might have had some idea of it, & sent for you. - ~~Whether~~ If you saw him or not, I wish you, for my satisfaction, to go to Mr Hails & Enquire particularly concerning his ~~death in reference~~ the state of his soul before death. He was at an other house some time before he was removed to Mr H's Enquire there - Learn if any Methodists visited him - ~~see them~~ & learn the exact state of his case, if you can.

If I have asked too much of you; Bro Finley forgive me - But it is a matter that interests me much & on which I desire if possible to know the truth. If you will be so good as to ascertain the state of his case & write to me the particulars you will confer a favour that will be remembered with gratitude by - James Gilbreth
 J B Finley. } * I suspect on or near the River bank - as he took down

a load of castings

As it respects the state of My Circuit it is tolerable we have some increase & some Neighboring Revivals — as it respects the Radicals I think they are not doing us much hurt tho I believe they would gladly overturn our Church Root & branch — they do what they can — But ^{some of} our members say, that they would can nothing for them, if they would quit lying — I have adopted ~~this~~ ^{it} as a rule, to pay no attention to them publicly — those who were once members of our Church when they come to our meetings, tell them plainly, that as they have gone out from us, they are now none of us: & so have no more to place in our class meetings or love feasts. — some go off at the first hint; but others preach me a whole bigmarrade about love & union among Christians & that they love the Methodists &c &c I tell them that I doubt not their loving the Methodists, but that I believe they love them just as the wolf loves sheep. — then they say that I am stiff & uncharitable &c &c — I tell them if we were so bad that they could not stay with us, they had best now keep away from us, which generally ends our Dialogue. — — — 8 of our members have joined them — I stand in doubt of one local Preacher joining them but I think for that they will not gain. 3 of theirs have come over to us — in ~~camp~~ in the class below grille near I think Mr Hemmilton & J Flemming's last year they carried off all but six (I think 12 went) but God has given us 30 in their place — — — I would be exceedingly glad to learn how you & they come on in your charge.

There is an other matter, on which my mind has been some exercised, & which leads me to enquire of those who are older & more experienced in those things, that is, whether there would not be a real advantage gained to the traveling preachers to have the journals of the General conference printed — that each traveling preacher might get a copy by paying a reasonable price — Can there be any justifiable reason for withholding them? I understand that General conference sits with open doors, so that who so will, may hear. Then if Dick, Tom, & Harry, may hear, why may not the constituents of that body, the traveling preachers? I wish you to reflect on this a little; also whether it would be proper for the annual conference to request the General conference to publish their journals — will you feel free to write to me your opinion on this particular? I shall be truly grateful to receive your opinion on this matter — & shall wait with anxiety to learn the result of your enquiries concerning My Brother in Christ.

I am Dear Sir with sentiments of esteem yours
J B Finley

J. Gilman