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James B. Finley Letters

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Letter from Charles Elliott to James B. Finley

Charles Elliott

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Rev. James B. Finley
Lancaster
Ohio

PITTSBURGH
SEP 20
1830

Rev. E. Bluff
Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh. August 11th 1830

D. Bro.

We have had upon the whole an agreeable conference. There is scarcely a trace of radicalism now among the preachers, and the few traces that remain, I believe will be purged out in the course of another year. During an vacation, from now till the first Monday in October I stay here filling Bro. Eastin's place, who is about to take a journey to the east. You will have learned before this reaches you, that Pittsburgh has only Bro. Eastin appointed, under the expectation of receiving one or two young men from your conference. I request you, and I do it not only in my own name, but in the name of the people here, and indeed at the earnest wish of all concerned, that you will use your influence to send us if possible, Bro. Brauning, and if you can Bro. Christy also. We are scarce of preachers, Pittsburgh wants help. The radicals are stronger here now than in any other place in the Union. We expect they will, within a few days shut us out of the large meeting-house entirely; the courthouse, small meeting-house and market place will then be an only refuge. The brethren here think that should the above mentioned brethren be sent here, the conquest in our journey through the blessing of God, would be complete. I utter

behalf of thousands a Macedonian cry, send us a couple
of first-rate young men for this city. We have nothing
however to fear here respecting the final issue of things
but we think it prudent to make all proper preparation
for the approaching difficulties. By hard swearing the
trial, is transferred from the Mayor's court to the court
of Common Pleas; and thus another year is gained.
The purport of the oath sworn by Avery and others, was
as I learn, that the dispute was between two parties
in the Methodist Church respecting property, and that justice
would not be obtained in the Mayor's court. Thus by
sheeking out of sight the leading characteristic of our church
the man episcopal, the oath for the present paper!!
It is hard to say what will come next.

I and my family are in good health. I hope you
will plead our cause with the brethren, that no ob-
jections be made to us receiving supplies.
Yours in Christ

Chas. Elliott

P.S. We learn that measures are now taking ^{by the radicals} to demand
the use of the old meeting house on Sunday evenings or they will
shut us out of the New meeting house. We will make no con-
cession or enter into no compromise with them. It is therefore
likely we will before long be shut out of the new meeting house

altogether. Building a new meeting house and undraying the
expense of a protracted law suit will be more than our friends
here can possibly do, I supposed that our friends at
a distance, did they know our case would assist us.
Could any aid be obtained from Cincinnati, or any other
place in Ohio? Might your conference do any thing
in this matter by requesting their preachers (or otherwise)
to make some collations in such places as they would deem
proper? I do not however pretend to point out any course
the amount of my enquiry would be, could any
thing be done provided we would attempt anything.
If we get the house now contended for, we will
want a new one, if we are so unfortunate as to
be unjustly deprived of it, we will still need it.
I send the Bishop some a copy of what I want
call the hard oaths by which the suit was protracted and
transferred. Please call on him for a perusal of them and
you will be able to judge what may be expected. Be good
enough to write to me as soon as