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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

2-2-1831

Letter from Mary E. Bayard to James B. Finley

Mary E. Bayard

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Pittsburgh Feb^y 1st 1831

Respected Brother Finley

I wrote to you some time ago, and directed to ridgville instead of Cincinnati in a mistake and never receiving an answer I expect you never received it, I therefore take up my pen once more to address you as it gives Mr Bayard and myself so much pleasure to receive a letter from you, that I must stir up your pure mind by way of remembrance in hopes that you will soon answer it— I cannot inform you of any great work of religion that is going on among us this year but we have cause to be thankful it is as well with us as it is, we are highly favored with preachers, I think we are greatly in debt to the Ohio conference in sending us two such excellent men as Brother Browning and Brother Boston. It will certainly be the fault of the members if there is not a revival here as they are so faithful in preaching and labouring amongst us— I hear you have had a gracious time in Cincinnati which makes me rejoice although I am far from being what I ought to be— Oh brother Finley pray for me constantly for I must confess I am a backslider in heart I have never sinn'd openly but I have lost the life and power of religion which I once possessed— once I could read my title clear to mansions in the skies now I am dead and cold, and

Mary & Bayard
Pittsburgh

to Rev. James B. Finley
Cincinnati

9011
40-41

pho

716
88
968
055

March 25th 1831
Alexander French

were I to die in this situation I am convinced I will
be lost, in an unwatchful hour I cast away my confi-
-dences in a time of dreadful persecution and temptation
and fear I never shall regain it, sometimes I feel so much
discouraged I think it is in vain to strive to be a
christian, at other times I feel determined never to give
up but if I perish to perish crying for mercy Oh my
good brother pray for my husband and myself in public
and in private as you would for your own children --
also once more I ask you to pray for my aged parents
and brothers and sisters they bear with great weight
upon my mind Oh do not get wearied with my impor-
-tunities the almighty will reward you ~~abundantly~~
my mother has been ill very ill indeed, for near
two months with a pain in her side breast, and head
spitting blood to an alarming degree she is better at
present and I think is seeking the salvation of her
soul in earnest (what a mercy) I have been reflecting
much this day on the goodness and long suffering of
God to call her in the 11th hour sixty two years
old next march and a violent opposer of the religion
of Jesus - bless the Lord Oh my soul nor let his
mercies lie, forgotten in unthankfulness and without
praises die - my soul hungers and thirsts after

righteousness I would be willing to lay down my life
to be happy in the Lord - I requested brother Browning
to commence a prayer meeting in our house which he
has done last Monday night we commenced and to morrow
night we will assemble again God willing I am in
hopes it will be a blessing to us all Oh that the
Lord would sanctify us through out soul body and
spirit - Remember Mr Bayard and myself affectionate
to every member of your family, fathers family desires
to be remembered to you all -

I remain your sincere but
unworthy sister
Mary. E. Bayard

P.S. write very soon -