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James B. Finley Letters

3-7-1831

Letter from John Lewis to James B. Finley

John Lewis

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Upper Canada
March 15th

1831

Rev James B Findlay

Cincinnati

Hamilton County

Ohio

John Jones
Upper Canada

Upper Canada, March 4th 1831
Dear Brother

I received your communication of the 21 of Jan last about a month ago & have nothing to offer as an apology for not answering it sooner, but laziness. I really felt sorry to hear of your afflictions & sympathized with you. but sudden My soul was made to rejoice & bless God at the recollection of that well known & familiar text Our light afflictions &c. I rejoiced to find you had not entirely forgotten us & that your face is still towards Mount Zion. That the glory of God & the salvation of souls is what you are still labouring labouring for. go on My Dear Brother, blow the Gospel trumpet as long as the good Lord may give you strength never locate. as many have done, as soon as they became increased in goods, & that much to the disgrace of their calling. But continue to cry aloud & spare not, stamp with the foot, smite with the hand. Show our proud Methodists their sins & follies - and the People of World their abominations, without fearing the frowns or courting the favour, either of the one or the other. And my prayers shall still be for the blessing of the Lord upon your labours, that he may give thousands of seals to your ministry, such as in the great Day shall rise up and call you blessed. Sidney & I are still striving to walk in the old path our face is still ~~is~~ still towards the promised land where we expect soon to meet you.

and yours, beyond the reach persecution & Slander
Where our good will no more be evil spoken of
Robert is one of the best of Boys, still faithful to
his Parents & to his God - James is a fine Boy ^{and} seems
to read finely but display a greater [&] faster genius
for the anvil than for the promulgation of the
Gospel - The little girls are loving and obedient
to their Parents & promise fair to become pious -
Broth & Sister Walker are in health at ^{present} I think both
hungering & thirsting after a deeper work of grace
in their hearts - Broth Wm has been sorely afflicted
with an inflammation of the eye which for weeks
threatened the loss of the sight - The rest of the
Walker family are well & doing well - The
Chiefs are all well & I think the most of them going
on to perfection - Your old friend & interpreter
Jonathan is out of the service & Brown in his
place, his too suspicious conduct was the ^{cause} of the
change - Our Missionaries are well & in pretty
good spirits as to the spiritual concerns of their
charge - To the Northwest of their new ground
there is at present a considerable revival, they
take in new recruits almost every round -
Religion still flourishes among the ^{Indians} though
Conversions are not so common as formerly
but old professors are becoming more & more establis-
hed - As it ~~relates~~ relates to temporal concerns I am
not able to give so cheering an account as I could
wish, the last year as you know ^{was} a very unfavour-
able one for the production of grain which caused
some deficiency in that article 2 or 3 hundred bushels
ster buying the quantity & using strict economy they may
reach warm weather

The School has I think been well managed through
the winter, better than it has since you left this, about
thirty Scholars are in regular attendance -

Our old friend D. Hodges, I have just been in-
formed is about to pass the Straights of Death
his Physicians have given him up, Dressbach is one of
them & has himself given up to die knowing that
hope in his case would be but to deceive
A swelling about the throat is his complaint - as to
the state of his mind, we heard nothing, that he
said he was willing to die & was not afraid to meet
the foe - I sweet will & marching onward -

Capt C & Family all well except the Capt who
about a week ago riding down to mill had his
ankle partially dislocated & perhaps the bone fractured
by the falling down of his horse - he wishes
remembered to you and family - 10th last
night Brother Thompson & myself visited our
old friend D. Hodges found him in much pain
but happy in the love of Jesus, rejoicing in
in God his Saviour, his will swallowed up in the
will of God - he talked feelingly & with a grateful
remembrance of your care for him, of ^{your} prayers
exhortations & sermons - said they had followed him
ever since, & that he wished much to see you, that you
would accept his warmest love & gratitude for the
interest you have taken in his behalf - Our good Brother
Thompson bids me inform you that if not a camp meet-
ing a two days meeting should be held at the time of
your visit that you may have an opportunity seeing
all your old friends - he also sends his love to you
& yours - Bring Sister Hindley with you - Our warmest
love & gratitude to you & yours
J B Hindley John Lewis