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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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I hope the next Gen. Conf. will send dream-making,
and dream selling adrift!!

Yours in peace and love
forever

Wesley
Chas. Elliott

142
Rev. James B. Finley
Ridgeville
Warren County
Ohio

Thos
Charles Elliott
With love to
the family



Pittsburgh March 1st 1832

Dear Brother Finley

I was glad to hear from you a short time since (via New York), and especially that they had got into their new house at Cincinnati. With persevering exertions, we made out to get into ours on Christmas day, although the cold weather prevented us getting the plastering done. Our situation, as you may suppose, is far better now than it was, and consequently our prospects ^{are} much more favourable. We have just concluded our third quarterly meeting, at which about a dozen joined society. I do not know much about the Rads; but I hear it said that Shin is likely to go to New York to serve the Stillwellites & Rads in Co. They commenced a large Church last season, but how they will get along or when they will finish it, are things that time alone can disclose.

Your old friend, James Gray, has been well chastised through the course of the winter, and under the rod, has sought the tract home; some time previous to his affliction, he had left the bottle, and I trust now that the Lord has wrought a gracious work in his heart. He seems glad of any attention

shown him, frequently speaks of you with the warmest recollection. He left my room only a few minutes ago, and desired to be remembered to you, and that if you came this way, you would call on him.

My chief object in writing to you now is, to know if you could not come through here on your way to Gen. Conf. and assist us, with several more of your Brethren, at a three or four days meeting. Conf. begins on Tuesday May 1st. I do not see how you can get there in time without leaving home earlier than the 23rd. of April; and if you leave home about the 16th. or 17th. of April you might get here by Saturday the 21st. and stay with us until Tuesday the 24th. and then reach Phil^a in time. There are two lines of stages from here to Phila. one goes through in 3 days & the other in four. The 'quick line' is limited to 6 passengers, and goes through without stopping, and you get no sleep except what you get in the stage. In favour of this design, I might urge several considerations; As - first, the unhappy difficulties through which the society have had to pass, make extra exertions necessary. They have been trodden down, and scattered in the cloudy day -

And yet amidst all the dust and noise of 'tyranny, episcopacy, popery' &c. &c. there are many real friends of the Church, her institutions, & ministers, they have stuck to her through 'evil report,' as well as 'good report.' — They are burdened with a heavy debt of from 5 to 6,000 dollars — The sun of prosperity begins again to be 'dimly seen.' and now is the time to help them. It is true, there are not many examples of deep piety; in this respect the greater part of the flock are weak. But how could you expect them to thrive when instead of the 'sincere milk of the word' their shepherds fed them with speculative theories, and metaphysical disquisitions on Church government; and then the Wolves of reform pouncing upon them to 'scatter, tear, and slay.' I could add more, but enough — if you have an old man's veins, a young man's blood yet flows through them. I have confidence in you that you will do the thing I desire if practicable. I shall write to Bro. Wright, and probably to Cincinnati. Will you consult some of the other delegates, and try to get them along? And please to write so that I may know with some degree of certainty. The meeting is not yet appointed, and therefore can be made to suite your own convenience. please give my love to Sister Finley, & Bro. Brooke & family.