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James B. Finley Letters

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Letter from G.S. Holmes to James B. Finley

G.S. Holmes

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Beavertown, Beaver County Pa. Sept. 3. 1832

Dear Brother

It may, perhaps, surprise you to receive a letter from one who has not been in the habit of corresponding with you, especially, at a time when your whole attention may be taken up with the multiplicity of business, which necessarily crowded upon the members of an annual conference. My only apology for intruding on your time at such a juncture is, that, I feel much on the subject which I now invite your attention to. It is this - the case of our old friend Mr. Wm. Swagg. At our last conference, he applied for, and obtained a transfer to your conference. This to me was rather unexpected; but considering the circumstances which I believe had a controlling influence in determining him to that course, I was not much surprised. He is now growing old, and, it is true, has his own way of doing business, but in that way he does good, and some of those who have entered the field of labour since he has begun to decline, have, I fear, manifested a disposition to toss him aside, as useless lumber. Be this as it may, for a length of time before he left us his feelings were repeatedly wounded, and, no doubt, induced him to leave us. Since conference I have thought much on his case, and could not feel that I had done right, unless I, in some way, would bear testimony in favour of the good old man, as a servant of his God and Master. I was not present when his character passed, at our last conference, and as I

Wm. S. Holmes
Beaver Town
Pa

Rev. James B. Finley
of the Methodist Epis. Church.
Hudson Co. N. H.
Dudgenville Ohio

Forwarded
from Dayton by a friend

PAID



Rev James B. Finley
Hudson Co. N. H.
Dudgenville

had an opportunity of knowing much about his labours and usefulness, through the course of the past year, I think it a duty, seeing he has left us to inform some of those with whom he is to labour in future, that God owned, and blessed, and crowned with success his exertions, in this cause, in this and other places, during the past conference year. Being aware of your standing among your brethren, and as you were one of the first Methodist preachers under whom I was induced seriously to think, I have taken the liberty of addressing these lines to you, to beg that you will take, at least, an ordinary share of interest in making our old friend's situation as comfortable as the case will admit of.

As to the motives of those brethren (if any were really opposed to the old gentleman) who have been the cause of Bro Swagg's affliction of mind, they may have been good, but I am bound to speak of him as I know him. I am convinced however, that young men very frequently think themselves better prepared to judge of men and things than they really are. There is too much of a disposition among Methodist preachers, perhaps, as well as others, to look upon old-fashioned plain things as of little use in the world, there is at least a danger of viewing things in this way.

The longer I live, and the more I reflect on the goodness of that Being who brought me from darkness to light, I feel the more inclined to love and reverence old Methodist preachers. God has honoured them, and

made them a blessing to the world, and I should respect them, and though they may have their failings and weaknesses I see and know that it is my duty to bear with them, and love them as fathers. Do be kind to old Brother Swagg!

Be so good as to give my love to him, to Bro Schorr, and excuse this scroll as I have been much hurried this morning. I remain your unworthy brother in the gospel of a gracious Redeemer
G. S. Holmes
Rev. James M. Finley

G. S. Brother M. Burrough just now wishes to be remembered to yourself, and Bro Swagg.

N.B I would be thankful for a letter from you, after conference, if you could find time to write me. Tell Bro Swagg that the Lord is still with us in Beaver. Remember me to Bro. James Laves G. S. H.