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James B. Finley Letters

10-19-1832

Letter from William Neff to James B. Finley

William Neff

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Reverend James P. Finley
Ridgerville
Warren Co
Ohio

Wm. S. Finley



Cincinnati Oct. 19th 1832

Reverend & dear Sir

We have this moment received your dated yesterday at Lebanon and sincerely regret your indisposition and hope that when you reach home you will soon be restored to health and that you and all around you will be permitted long to enjoy that blessing. altho I am very feeble I take my pen & will endeavor to write you a few lines knowing how anxious you will be during the prevalence of the awful scourge which the Lord in his wisdom has been pleased to permit to visit our devoted city - The few first days after its appearance were enough to strike terror to the stoutest heart - so sudden and powerful was the disease that many in apparent good health fell in the streets and could not again rise but required to be carried to their homes, and very few that were early attacked survived more than 5 to 10 hours - in the last 3 or 4 days it has very generally yielded to medicine - and the premonitory symptoms very generally such as to give the earliest opportunity to administer such medicine as seemed requisite - the premonitory symptom in almost every case is an extreme looseness in the bowels which soon becomes the colic and consistency of Rice water, in which case ~~the premonitory symptom is~~ 10 grains of calomel and 1 grain of opium prepared in a pill has been given every hour until the looseness be checked - 3 drops of spirits of

Camphor in a table spoonful of water taken every hour or half hour (as the case requires) has been salutary in many cases — hot Tea, mustard plasters, and rubbing with spirits, or camphor, or spirits of Turpentine, the cold parts, has always been attended with good — The Physicians have had a dreadful time and many of them were confined to their Beds from fatigue & exhaustion. The disease is thought to be abating considerably and the great alarm has measureably subsided, and we hope in the course of a few days that health will be again restored to the City — It is computed that 10000 persons have left the City — Some of your friends have fallen, some gloriously, Brother Coralt died most triumphantly — every one was allowed their perfect senses to the last, and many proved in their very last moments the glorious hopes of the righteous beyond the grave, indeed nothing but an entire trust and confidence in the Lord could give composure and resignation under such scenes — Brother Morris has had much to do and has been extremely active, he has had but little time to sleep and oftentimes nearly overcome, but a little rest and he was enabled to be on duty again — he has been, during it, more than usually cheerful, and we think much comforted under the trial. Mr. Jeff and all the family have enjoyed reasonable health and altho' I have been much indisposed I have reason to be thankful that they far we have been spared from the dreadful disease

we all join in Love to you all, and altho we are always so happy to see you we are well satisfied that you are not here just now as the disease is much abated and you could not probably be of much service, or there is more help among the sick now than has been, and your coming from the Country might make you more subject to the disease.

The hand of the Lord is so visible in this visitation that we do hope and pray that it may be sanctified to all that may be suffered to survive — I have not been out of the house for several days but have heard of resolutions formed by persons that if they are spared, a new life shall be immediately commenced — O that the Lord would sanctify this judgement particularly to us all — Continue to pray for us brethren Truly we need help, and O always remember us at a throne of grace that we may always be resigned to the will of God and that while permitted to remain here below we may have the holy spirit to dwell with us and in us and guide us in the way of all truth, and when called hence may we all meet in heaven to praise the Lord for ever!!

do write us often, particularly at this time — we shall be anxious about your health until we hear again

Yours ever

William Jeff