

Ohio Wesleyan University

Digital Commons @ OWU

Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

5-19-1835

Letter from James Gilruth to James B. Finley

James Gilruth

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters>

Recommended Citation

Gilruth, James, "Letter from James Gilruth to James B. Finley" (1835). *Finley Letters*. 156.
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters/156>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.

104
Rev James B Finley
Ann Arbor
M. I. C.
May 22. Chillicothe - Ohio

For Guelph
May 1835

50
May 19 1835 -

My dear old friend, for some months past I
have been almost daily going to write to you, ^{but} never
found that undisturbed hour totally free from
the pressure of duty which I have desired to obtain -
Thank God for my usual health & spirits - My family
are well, & are very comfortable with the increase of
an other daughter - The spring has been unusually
backward - & cold - it looks summer like now - all
cattails are high - Hay scarcely to be had - grain of all
kinds scarce - The people generally well - a good deal of
politics - Jacksonism prevails - The boundary question
was a spirit stirring question among our Yankees - it is calm
at present - Religion is as Multiform here as any where
I know - it is ison or ism, but Devilism is by no means
the smallest, ison of the land - We are doing what we can
to Counteract it, & are in some measure successful -
I have just closed my turn round on the dist. - at
a goodly number of our galls souls have been converted
& all have been seasons of refreshing & comfort -
We have got a charter for our seminary, just such
as we asked - it is perfectly a Methodistical thing - My only
fear is, that its sectarian features will stand in our way when
we shall wish to obtain a share of the Seminary lands in this
territory if they ever are to be decided - perhaps it may not -
On the singing question, we are nearly orthodox: & I think
will be perfectly so by the end of the year - I first got them to
sing the first two times of each verse, this went well ^{with them} - But the
big fiddle crept in again at Detroit - this sprung my feelings
up to, if not above high toned orthodoxy so that I determined at
all requests to break up this business - Well, the result

is the fiddle is departed: & at my next gett I lined every hymn throughout, & so did all that labour in that meeting, we had a good time - I called for mourners in the old fashioned way; & the good work prospered - I am growing more & more decided that all the errors that creep into Churches, are wholly attributable to the preachers, & no one else. - I feel as if My soul were on fire for God's glory & the purity of his Church - I hope to succeed in getting the meeting house in Detroit dedicated according to M Discipline - & have some hopes also with regard to the freeing of the seats - some busy creatures carried the remarks in Conference to the Detroit society which had no very good effect for the time being: but I hope to succeed in all that is necessary - I feel that we have much need to stand firm by our discipline - there is so much innovation of one kind & another that unless we rally round the standard & bring every thing to the level of the law there is no knowing where we shall land - My Pr help me to a proper Pr for Detroit at our next Conf. One who will do for the District - My mind is on Joseph M Trimble & I think our situation, - just commencing a seminary &c requires such a man - But I leave all with the Lord -

The Michigan Pr are certainly not deficient in the matrimonial spirit - Colclague & Whitney have each taken a wife, & Pilsch is expected to - Elliott was on the point of so doing; but another gained his fair one - I have cautioned & reasoned on this subject as far as I felt was becoming me. But Man is man: & young men will have wives: & young women will have husbands, so that I am on the point of saying I will not meddle My self on this subject - I feel desirous of knowing how you & your dist feel and siting along - I feel much need of your prayers, & of all that love the Lord Jesus -

The celebrated Pitt Moss is here dedicating an Universalist M to Day - I have been employed all day in writing, (regardless of those things) so that My hand has in a measure become heavy - I set out day after tomorrow on my last round on the dist - We have found on New Cin, & I employed a young man there some months ago - we shall have to form some more New work in order to keep pace with the increasing call. We want young men, & those of some talent - for these Yankees (whether they are or are not) really think they are the knowing ones - I was much pleased to see those remarks of J. B. on the subject of Theological seminaries - for if we once get these things in methodism we may fairly give up the ship - Pride, & Pedantry - Effeminacy, a Cold lifeless Ministry, & a lukewarm Church will then be fully wedded together - O for a coming simply to our discipline - here is our sheet anchor - let us ^{strengthen} ~~lighten~~ this, & keep it safe -

I am dear James your friend in Christ - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you -
I Pr finally
James Silcott

Great str finally in the Lord -
Anan Arbour. Washburn Co. M.S.