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James B. Finley Letters

12-8-1836

Letter from Harvey Sweny to James B. Finley

Harvey Sweny

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Pikeston December the 5th 1836

Brot Finley

Dear sir I embrace this opportunity of addressing a few lines to you to lett you know how we are getting along. I came to this circuit the week after conference and commenced my labours among this people. I am vary well pleased with it we have at present twenty regular appointments and the roads over which we have to travel is pirtly good and one thing that ^{prayer} the worke more pleasant I have mett with a vary warm reception amongst the people. For which I ^{feel} thankfull. Oh that the Lord may ^{keep} me humble. now if I can onely be usefull I shall be satisfied. You told me at conference that you though I would be pleased with my colleague I have found it so he is a vary companionable man a good preacher and also a good housekeeper and cirtently there is grait neede of that on this Circuit. I am also mutch pleased with his wife she is a plain fermilier little woman. Brot James is well received on this circuit and I think he will be vary usefull. I feel graitfull to you for my present comfortable situation & Pray for me that I may be a blessing to this people. The state of religeon on this Circuit in many places is dull we have a grait ^{many} members that donte attend thare class meetings and worse than that some whisky drinking and drunken Methodist but we are getting ritt of them as fast as possible Brot Jim is whirling therover the fence

4789
246
4800
289
4780

Paid 12th
Pikeston Pa
Dec 12th

4789

for James B. Finley

2873 4963

290 Ridgwell

20 Warren County

4600 250 220 276 276

240 96 222 222 46

230
20
4600

126
40
5040
4780

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20
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30000

1
13
166
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11
142
15100
36
57000

The people in this District so far as I have heard are generally pleased with, there Preachers Bro. Turner is doing well in Portsmouth, and Bro. Crum is very well liked in Chillicothe. But the people are not so well pleased in the change of Presiding Elders and especially in Chillicothe. I was at Doctor McAdoo's a short time since and they were all well the Old ^{Doctor} was in fine spirits and busily taking care of his sheep. Since I have come to this circuit by the blessing of kind Providence my health is considerable improved and I think I feel more than ever given up to the service of my master we have some excellent meetings thank God. I want to be more holy and enjoy more of the life and power of religion.

As this letter is designed exclusively for your self I think it prudent to name one thing more that is I have come to the conclusion to change my state in life from a single state to a double one. This may appear to you strange, but it is for the following reasons 1st I think I can be more usefull and do better for at present I am toying from hour to hour and my clothing is scattered here and there. 2^d It will free me from some temptations that I am at present exposed to some females are so foolish about young Preachers they are always throwing them selves in their way and this frequently embarises me for I do not like it. Bro. Morrow and Both Finley both advised me

to gett married I have maid it a matter of Prayer and serious thought for I want to act prudent in the matter I consitter you one of my best friends therefore I want your council and advise. For I believe my sole aim is to do good and to gett to heaven.

I have an appointment to day and it is now time to start to it I must close by requesting you to write to me as soon as convenient. Give my love to sister Finley

Yours in bonds of love
Rev. J. B. Finley
Henry Sweny