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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

3-7-1837

Letter from William D. Barrett to James B. Finley

William D. Barrett

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Hillsborough 7th March 1834

Dear Brother Finley

Yours of the 3rd Inst. came to hand this day, and I was glad to hear from you, and to learn your bad state of health, I hope however with care you will soon recover, and not dwelling to believe that your suffering is any indication of a step to believe it arose from the great desire I feel for you to occupy your station in the temperate field which which you have hitherto so laboriously and acceptably filled, I hope therefore you will use all the means possible to restore your impaired system and to brace the lungs which has for the last twenty years resisted the force of your heavy taxation, which you have at last subdued. My tranquility and peace pervade your mind and paper your soul in all this affliction but perhaps it is for your sake, or for the sake of our cause, that I wish to engage you to write what has long been a desideratum in our history to fill a vacancy in our library - it will I trust no doubt be looked for with anxious solicitude by many, who are now impatient for its publication - The book of which you speak & request me to send to Cincinnati, I know nothing of I have no such book in my possession, I recollect to have borrowed from you this story in the west when I was in Wilmington, (the authors name I do not recollect) Bro Swan requested the privilege of reading it and promised to return it to you the next time he saw you and I suppose he had done so long since, if he has not done so I regret it much - I think that must be the book to which you allude, as I have no recollection of having at any time borrowed any other book from you and have searched my library through and cannot find any thing of the kind - I will enquire for the other books mentioned, and will get them for you if I can find them. You know there are not many reading folders in the hands of my friends, but there are some that have good libraries, I may find one that will help

Hillsborough
 Wm D Barnett

March 8/34

Hillsborough
 March 8th

Wm D Barnett

Chapman
 Wm D Barnett

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Our prospects on the Circuit begin to be some what flattering
the situation of the Circuit you know was formerly very low
it was truly discouraging, but was set to work and preached
holy spirit religion & visited delinquents & organized classes
and expelled wicked members and now we have a prospect
of a harvest we have received perhaps forty members
Millers was the worst condition of any we have had
our congregation the presbyterians had swept the hall
it was truly discouraging but now commences without
complaint and both our congregations begin to
increase & now we have the house full on nearly
every sabbath we have arranged the Circuit so as
to preach here twice every sabbath and things were a
very different aspect the prospects are good. The members
attend class meetings finely and that you know is a good sign
but we pray and pray and look for better times. May
commence next sabbath at Petersburg. we hope to have
a good time. My colleague is a fine fellow with
residence on the circuit & is doing much good & our good
old Bro Quinn is moving along slowly doing the best he
can he is in full health. He is no doubt a superannuated
man but he does not believe it. The Dist. is suffering for
want of more energy. This is known to all. There was
much kicking after Conference I felt much for him. The
people confidently backed for your return and the disap-
pointment made some of them tedious particularly about
Chillicothe. The old man is worn out in this station with
the people. I have heard no one object to him as a man or
as a preacher farther than they do not want one man
all the time they have heard him for near twenty years
the best of men you know will wear out and then is the
exceeding of our economy. I say these things confidentially. There
is no man that I respect more than Bro Quinn.
The Dist. is a hard case but so far I have got along with
him with fortitude he is my warm friend. we have
on the hall yet along in much peace & friendship on the Circuit

You have many friends in the bounds of this Circuit
that often enquire after you and speak affectionately
of you & would be extremely glad to see you I hope
you will visit us some time in the year at our camp
meeting if not before we shall be glad to see you
if you cannot preach -

We are in tolerable health
through May. My wife joins in love to Sister
Fanny Mrs + Sister Brooks & to the same yourself
Yours in much love and
Esteem
G. M. D. Barrett

P.S. the appointment of A. Latta in your place
will be a damper to grass Sam Clarke he has
been almost goaded with the idea of being a
P.E. he was confident that you would
recommend him to the Bishop so I am
told. what a pity great men should be
thus chopped off at the knees. I wish you
would write to him and request him to come
and pay his debts in this place, it is doing us much
injury & causing me much uneasiness. Bro Quinn
can do nothing with him, some time since I determined
to request you to write him on that subject. The debt that
is making the most fuss is due John Smith. Money he
borrowed on his way to conference & promised to return it
on his return from conference without fail. but he
said nothing about it. Mr. Smith has written to him on
the subject but can get no answer. he now says Clarke is
a liar &c. these things are very hurtful to the cause of religion
& his cause has injured as much in this place - please
your influence with him on that subject.