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5-11-1837

Letter from John McDonald to James B. Finley

John McDonald

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Poplar Ridge May 11th 1837

Dear Sir

I have sent by David Reed 28 pages of ~~the~~ manuscript of the life of Gen Marthur, to the editors of the western Christian advocate, for publication. The intire will consist of from 70 to 80 pages which I will forward as soon as I have leisure to finish them.

In the last sheet which I have sent, I have made some remarks about Gen Waynes campaigns in 1794, and also about the treaty of peace in 1795. If you think ^{proper} you may say to the editors; that I was one of the spies or Rangers employed by Gen Wayne in the summer 1794, and was kept constantly in advance of the army, to watch and reconitre the movements of the Indians: This was as dangerous, and ^{as} responsible a situation as can be well imagined. . . . I was a pay master in Gen Hulls army in 1812 . . . I was a captain in the regular army in 1813 with Gen Harrison. . . . In 1814 and 1815 I was a colonel with Gen Marthur; and was in command of a Regiment at De-
=troit ~~where~~ ^{where} peace was made in 1815. I do not wish to brag or boast of the military duties I have performed, and seen: I wish these ^{things} to be noticed to shew how I came by a knowledge of the men, and history of the times, of which I am, and ^{have} been writing.

Go a head with your history. Be patient in correcting ~~proof~~ ^{ing} and revising your work. correcting and ~~reirring~~ ^{reirring} is the most laborious and heart rending part of composition. No one who has not tried it, can understand the ^{difficulties and} miseries an author has to endure; Well might one of ^{the men of} old times (who wished revenge) exclaim, "Oh! that my enemy, would write a book". Cheer up under your ~~task~~ ^{task}, undertaking, neither character ^{or} fortune is made, or maintained without ^{toil and} labor. I wish you peace, health, and happiness.

Rev J B Hinley.

John McDonald

P.S. Was it possible for the public to see the interlinations - the blots and torn sheets of an author - the anxiety and sleepless nights he passed in study as his work, has grown and improved on his hands, the reader would pity ~~then~~ ^{then} be grateful to the poor devil; instead of censuring him for vanity.

J M D

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Ed J McJannet
May 11/37