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James B. Finley Letters

2-8-1838

Letter from William H. Lawder to James B. Finley

William H. Lawder

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Dear brother Finley

Dayton Feb. 8th 1838

~~Made me~~ I recd your kind letter which made me the subject of a variety of sentiment. I rejoiced to hear from my old friend & brother, who though out of sight, is not out of mind. I have thought, often, of you & wished you with us, if it were only to enjoy the pleasures of the scene & give the word of command. And you cannot imagine how I felt when told you were at the point of paying us a second visit, when at Germantown I thought could I have been by your side & whispered what God has wrought & is doing, I should have prevailed. But it was otherwise & the lap was mine. I would have written ere this but supposed you would see Bro. Johnson in the city, by the time you would expect my letter. & hear from him the particulars, more fully, than I could write them. On the Saturday after Harriet Latta & John came ~~the~~ ^{to church} Winters & Barns proposed to change the meetings from church ^{to church} alternately, to which I objected, & Winters took offence & threatened that our congregation would be taken away. He influenced the others to desire a disunion, which they proposed, & eagerly embraced. It was a blessed thing for us, we had been troummelled, they often ran across our meetings. Sabbath, Winters tried what he could do, - he took & baptised one person - the wife of his brother - He is like Alexander the coper - smite in design, but not in effect. Cook baptised five, last Sabbath, he says according to the scriptural mode - Barns, it is said, will get about thirty members. We have met with some opposition as we might have expected, for when the sons of God met together Satan came also. Week before last we had up a man who disturbed the congregation, & had him fined \$14.00 & cart. Last Sabbath night we were disturbed by three drunken fellows, who were taken to prison & locked up till morning, when they were fined \$5.00 each & cart. Two refused to pay & were remanded & I believed are still confined. Notwithstanding this interruption, last Sabbath night, I had 25 at the altar & some new cases powerfully awakened. The work goes on - we have select meetings in private houses, & I find much advantage in visiting from house to house - I think next Saturday week, I shall commence another meeting, if I can get help & in the mean time we will endeavor to gather up the fragments that nothing be lost. Utter for me the Macedonian cry - prevail on some of the brethren to come & help, at that time. I much regret your affliction but hope it will not continue; should you not be able to attend your Q. meetings, come to Dayton & look on if nothing more. I would just say, that if Dr. Latta suffers any thing from reports heretofore circulated in the place, he has more than recovered himself in the estimation of the people. Yours affectionately
Wm. A. Lawder

Rev. J. B. Finley.

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Rev. J. B. Finley
Cincinnati
Ohio



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W. H. L. Lander
Dec 1838