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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

7-13-1838

Letter from Francis H. Jennings to James B. Finley

Francis H. Jennings

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Washington Fayette Co. Ohio July 13th 1838.

Dear Brother Finley,

Think it not an
imposition offered to you, when I tell you I write
you because, I have always delighted to hold a
converse with you, It is true I have not written to
you for the last 9 months but though I have
not done it it has not arisen from the circum-
stance I have not been willing to do it but
from the circumstance you did not answer my
last. Perhaps you did not receive it.
You no doubt have heard I did not take
the Circuit assigned me at the last conference.
True I did not, I did it not from con-
siderations, 1st I thought it was done through
the influence of Father Quinn who I believed was
prejudiced against me, because I said he was
not competent to discharge the duties of a
presiding C. in the district, and that the dis-
trict had not a Finley - 2^d Logan Circuit was
a laborious circuit of 23 appointments,
and my health being very poor, I was unable
to discharge the duties of a preacher in charge.
3^d The Circuit was poor and when I went to
it I could get no place for my family, and
would have gone though I did nothing, and
lastly some of your best friends and mine
an elder Amos C. C., advised me not to go -
that under the circumstances which I then
was it was doing me injustice, I think Br.
Finley I was treated badly - I have treated 5.
years I never flinched, I was as far as I
have been able at my post.

Paris 11

Washington & 949

July 13

Rev. James C. Finley

Ridgeville

Warren Ct

Ohio

Yours truly
J. C. Finley

And if Mr. Quinn had done as I think and many others, I would have been sent back to the Circuit you left me in, where I was wanted, though I had not been able to preach but the cry by Mr. Quinn was I was not able to do the work in the Circuit where they sent me to a much harder one, I would not wish you to conclude that I wish to sneeze or shrink from my duty no, I feel as strong a desire to travel as I ever did, and to die in the work but my family hold a station in my affections, too strong to be torn away, doomed to misery, when I think it could have been easily prevented, I have stopped in this place and have been practicing for my living and preaching every Sunday when able, my health is entirely I think recovered, and though my practice is worth from 10 to 12 hundred dollars this year, if the Conference will give me nearly where my family can be provided for I leave it and sound salvation, I should be glad to hear from you, as soon as you get this, Dr. Truett has been sick nearly 8 mo, he was taken with congestion, which ultimately terminated in an apoplexy, which will no doubt take him from us, his health is very poor, his day of traveling is forever done, and some doubts are entertained whether he will ever fully recover, This District so far as I can here is not in as prosperous condition as when you left it, Deer Creek excepted, This Circuit is in a low condition and if Conference does not send new strong men here next year it will take years to bring it up to what it has been,

My wife sends her best respects to you and sister Emily, and so does Dr. Truett & wife. If they do not please me at Conference I would be glad if you think me worthy to get in your district, My God every blessing and keep you

Pray for me,

very yours,

F. H. Lanning

N. B. Whilst Dr. Truett was able to travel in this Circuit, he was and universally beloved, and no man has ever been in Washington who has been better received, and if his health had held out it thinks he would have done good business, The 11th mo he labored faithfully, I think his intense labour was a means of his prostration,