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James B. Finley Letters

7-12-1846

Letter from Joshua Clarke to James B. Finley

Joshua Clarke

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I have served as Commissioner of Bart. since from the first
 in this county 19 took the Benefit of the Law. and among
 all, I do not think there were more. 2. Harvest men
 I am heartily glad the Law is done.
 13 Monday 10 O'clock. Mr. Burns our Overseer has just
 now come in with a fever on him; he preached 3 times
 yesterday & 2 a day for 3 days before Thursday the mercury
 stood 100 in the shade. he must quit this excessive hard
 labour or he will kill him self; he is a good man
 & full of the holy ghost. may the good one Person. I for all
 your labours in the Conference of 44. and serve in the defence
 of the truth and of Persecution in the same.
 Give my Love to sister Hannah Br & sister Brook & our grand
 Maady; may the good one keep them in the shadow of his
 Right hand. - so prays yours until Death
 Joshua Clarke,

Pennellaw Lakes County Va 12 July 1846,
 My Dear Brother Linley.
 I am truly glad to hear from you & to hear that
 you are still able (the same to take the prize) I did expect
 when I first heard of your appointment to the St
 prison as Chaplain; you find additional evidence that
 Love will conquer every thing. O. may the good one
 give you & me a double portion. we are sorry
 that you have sold your Land; for now we almost
 despair of every thing till we meet in the next
 World; (well it will not be long) I am still striving
 to be fitted and made perfect in Love my daily
 prayer for the good one to make me just what he
 would have me to be, for it he that works in us
 both to will and to do; of his own good pleasure.
 I find yours are 4 years my seasons; but O how much
 before me in purity and usefulness. may the good
 one make you more useful than ever.
 What changes have taken place in the Church since we
 last met; & the best ending thought; where is those that
 you & I loved so well; where is soul matters May
 such and a harvest of others; some may talk & weight
 as much as he pleases a bare principle. but if he had as
 much of the principle of Christ as we thought he one had
 he would have suffered as much as human Nature is
 able to suffer; before he would have sent the Body of
 Christ in ~~to~~ & I verily believe he could have saved it if
 he would

I have left my farm 1/2 mile from town & move here
and built and prepared a Little Chamber a head a ^{table} stool & a
candle stick; and many men of God turn in & Lodg'.
And glad would I be if I could have the happiness to see
the Rev. J. B. T. up in to that Little Chamber; but if you
cannot perhaps Bro. Moody will (who though unwise I
love for his work sake. The Church here is in a bad state
Now, 7 years ago our Church here consisted of 3 myself wife and
youngest son who died on 10 March in triumph, we number
35 at present & there has been 4 classes formed from our own
and twice Rose 3 years ago. first the conference sent a Man ^{Rowley} here
that god never sent nor would the conference if they had known
the man. he ruled with a Rod of steel & Dogs more than
a half Dozen of our Best men out of the Church. at last I could
bore no more; he had turned out one old Brother (who had been ^{bes} some
40 years) without any legal trial or any written charge; he nor any
of the members knew that there was any cause of complaint
against the old Bro. as there never had been one word of complaint
in 40 years; neither would he grant an appeal, but as I had stood as
class Leader & Recording Stewart from the first; I took the liberty
when he answered; no appeal; to say there was great need of an
appeal in one case at least; the matter was brought up & the old Bro.
was restored without a dissenting. Except the preacher; & he was susp-
ended & will be turned out of the congregation. our next difficulty
15 members by certificate from Ohio & Fort were I came on, 5 of
which had taken the benefit of the Bankrupt Law, and have bought
farms & 2 of them brought out \$6000 of store goods. these together with
their want of moral honesty, has sunk our Church every low.
But our trust is in the Lord; & we look for better times.

Dea
Joshua Clarke
July 1846

Perpelaw
July 17
pair 5

Rev. J. B. Finley M.D.
Columbus
Ohio