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James B. Finley Letters

11-2-1840

Letter from Stephen F. Conrey to James B. Finley

Stephen F. Conrey

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Recommended Citation

Conrey, Stephen F., "Letter from Stephen F. Conrey to James B. Finley" (1840). *Finley Letters*. 197.
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Troy Nov 2nd A D 1840

Dear beloved Father - to-day I came in from a tour on my circuit & found your letter in the office & now hasten to receive your mind by answering the same. And first I feel myself un-worthy of the attention you have paid to me in writing on the subject of our appointment, as I feel myself to be but a boy in the great itinerant family. Indeed I fear you place too high an estimate on me. I will now say something to the subject of my appointment. Before conference I made it my constant prayer that I might be sent to the right ^{place} & trusted myself to you & God. But there was so much said both to my face & behind my back about my return to the circuit that I had concluded that likely it would be so. nevertheless I had no will of my own. I left conference in good spirits. But when I got home my friends seemed so afflicted that it made me feel miserable. And when I came over to Troy I found it to be a ~~very~~ sickly place. In view of these things I left Bellbrook with many tears but felt at the same time that if the work required it I was willing to go. Your letter has convinced me that you thought honestly that the work did require it, so I am satisfied. I have received all my appointments except the first through yourself & I think I should do very wrong to complain on the whole. And as it respects Margaret she said when she saw your letter she never

once thought hard of you believing you too good a man to ^{do} wrong intentionally.

Things in Troy are in a bad condition & I feel that I have a great work to do. I came here praying & looking to God for help. I have set a resolution to visit every methodist family in town & to try to do all I can for the good cause. I think I never felt more the importance of ~~this~~ work in my life nor more given up to God. How far I shall be useful I know not but I do earnestly pray for success in my undertaking. I think I have an excellent man for my colleague & I hope we shall have a pleasant year together. We now think to have our first quarterly meeting in this place & unless you hear from us on the subject you may expect it here. If you think it would not be too far for you to walk to the Church we want you to come & put up with us at our meeting. I close by assuring you that we are still yours in much love hoping still to share in your love & prayers.

Adieu we well

Stephen T. Conrey

Rev J B Finley