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Letter from William B. Christie to James B. Finley

William B. Christie

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Rev. L. B. Hawley
Dunmose Town
Ohio



Recd
H. B. Hawley

Urbana March 29th 41

Bro Hawley

Before this I would have acknowledged the receipt of your favour but have been waiting the conclusion of our 2nd 2nd meeting which commenced on the 20th of last month - As the conclusion seems no nearer than at the close of the first week - I have thought I would send you a line, and coming events might afford something with which to blot another sheet -

Since our quarterly meeting commenced one hundred and twenty ^{three} have given us their names as applicants to join on trial - and between fifty and sixty have professed to experience conversion - And the number of persons at the altar as seekers has been much greater the past than either of the preceding weeks - Though the town there is considerable interest awakened - and the revival is the common topic of conversation - The brethren in the neighbourhood have been kind in rendering assistance - Still most of the time I have been alone - and through fatigue and lack of rest I am nearly worn out - The brethren have concluded this week they will carry on the meetings and let me rest and recruit - For all say it would be wrong to discontinue our extra efforts at this time

I have seen several religious excitements in my ministerial life - but this is the strangest work I have ever witnessed - For it has been carried on in the midst of feuds and bickerings, heartburnings and jealousy among the members of the church - This spirit has seized the church and

and prevails to such an extent that nothing seems to make any impression upon the Church to melt or subdue their hearts to the Love of God and fellowship with each other.

Some three years ago there was introduced into the congregation here - and seated ^{in the gallery} a choir of singers. This was seized upon as an occasion of strife - and parties were soon formed - Choir & Anti Choir - This has been continued up to the present - and is still stirred up to destroy fellowship among brethren. During the greatest extent of religious influence in the Town - when it was to some extent general among the unreligious - the members of the Church were busy in party strifes about the singing - some proposing to sing down the Choir - and others busy trying to build up and sustain it - Now as to this thing of Choir I know but little and must have a great deal more light - and experience than I have ever yet had, before I would introduce such a thing into a Methodist Congregation.

There is I think one evil in our administration which should be avoided as much as possible - The committing important charges whether of circuits or Stations to young and inexperienced hands - Entirely to escape this may be impossible - still I think we could prevent much trouble and a great deal of injury by doing what could be practicable to be done.

The Societies round us are generally in a prosperous condition from what I can learn.

Bro. Cownell is labouring very hard - and is pretty well wearied on the point - But he can't stand P.E.-ing long -

The family is in pretty good health - I am fatter, and almost worn out with fatigue. I have many things which I would like to say

- but must wait some other opportunity - I would be glad to see and have a long talk with you -
Remember us to Sister F. and Bro. Brothers and family with all friends - Write soon

affectionately
W. B. Christie

Rev L. B. Finley

