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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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7-29-1842

## Letter from David Jordan to James B. Finley

David Jordan

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### Recommended Citation

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Rev. J. B. Finley

Present



Good  
Jordan  
Dignia

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Received July 29<sup>th</sup> 1842  
Rev. J. B. Finley

Sir, the very unkind and extraordinary treatment I have received from you to day, as well as for the last one or two years, has been exceedingly grievous to me indeed, and as you do not appear disposed to give me an opportunity to defend myself, I feel compelled to take this method of conversing with you upon the subject. I had made up my mind to bear, with as much patience as possible, all that had passed, but the extraordinary course you pursued toward me to day, has opened the wounds a fresh, which had well nigh healed up, I can not help but feel aggrieved at the unkind, an uncourteous manner, in which you ~~appeared~~ appeared disposed to treat me in the Conference room this afternoon. Why was it? what have I done to deserve such treatment from you? Why was you more disposed to suffer J. M. Cheevers to insult the whole Conference, than you was to permit me to make a simple inquiry, without peremptorily telling me to take my seat? You certainly have not acted thus without some very good reasons, is it asking too much of you then, to inquire what these reasons are? — You have done me great injustice for the past year or two, by circulating what was not true about me, I do not say that the untruths originated with you, but I do think I have good grounds to complain, that <sup>you</sup> should receive from persons who were unfriendly toward me, exaggerated, and false reports, and not give me an opportunity to explain — I believe you have stated, that I was the cause of your salary being reduced by the Steward, and that abolitionism gave rise to it, this is not true, and I believe the preacher in charge Bro Howard, and one of the Stewards, ~~you~~ informed you that it was not, notwithstanding, you continued to treat me as though I had been the originator of that reduction, and I believe made your statement in reference to it as you had done before, I have no doubt you have been informed that I was the originator of it, but then you <sup>were</sup> also informed to the contrary, and was it not as easy to state one thing, as another?



I have reason to believe you have also stated that I was  
the cause of all the difficulties in the Church. This charge I  
do most emphatically, and positively deny, and challenge you  
or any other person to the proof. I think it would not be a  
very difficult task to prove that the two individuals you appear  
to have selected as your confidants, have contributed more largely  
toward producing difficulties in the Church than all the other  
members put together, indeed it is my honest opinion sir, that  
the course they have been pursuing, in which you seem to have  
taken some humble part, has been one of the greatest drawbacks  
upon Methodism in this place, that has occurred for many years,  
and had it not been for the extraordinary efforts of Bro.  
Young, the Church could not have survived under it,

Depend upon it sir, you have been led astray by persons  
whose intentions are perhaps, not quite as pure as your own,  
this however might very easily be overlooked, were it not for  
the fact that you have associated with very few, if any others, and  
you have treated the true friends of the Church, and your  
friends, as enemies &c &c — Now sir, these things  
together with a great many others, that it is not necessary to  
to name here, are what I see, and honestly believe to be  
wrong in you, and as a steward I feel it my duty to tell  
you plainly, I would prefer doing it verbally however,  
but having requested an interview with you some time  
ago, which request you treated with indifference, I therefore feel,  
that I have no other way of communication than the  
present. And I will here make one special request of  
you, and that is this, if you have any objections to  
any thing stated above, be so good as to hear my explanation  
before you make it known to any other person, and if I  
have made any unkind remark, the only apology I can offer  
is, that I feel myself very much aggrieved and injured  
by the unkind, and as I think unchristian course you  
have pursued toward me, my feelings therefore are such

as I can not easily restrain — and also in conclusion state,  
that I am not only willing, but anxious to have an opportunity  
to explain any allusion I may have made in the above, and to take  
back whatever can be made appear to me to be untrue, and if I have  
done you or any other one, any injustice, I am willing to comply  
with any thing the word of God, or our Discipline may require  
at my hands, and I ask no more, but I do ask as much  
of you — with the hope that all difficulties will be  
amicably settled — I am respectfully  
Yours &c

David Jordan

P.S. please answer the inquiries in  
the above soon — D.J.