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Letter from Charles Elliott to James B. Finley

Charles Elliott

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 New James B. Finlay
 Germantown
 Ohio
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Cincinnati, Jan. 9th 1844
 Dr. bro. Finlay
 I received your last, which contains as un-
 expected news to me as could be well ima-
 gined. I believe the office, which, with all good
 will, you select for me, is one which I am
 not qualified to fill; and I beg you will
 cease to mention my name in reference
 to it. I know it is my duty to serve the
 M. Episcopal church in any way in my
 power, as far as my qualifications will
 enable me. But I am persuaded that the office
 of bishop wants not suit me, and I want
 not suit it. I shrink, however, from no la-
 bor, or no sacrifice, within the bounds of my
 abilities. But I have not the necessary qua-
 lifications for so responsible and important an
 office in an church. Besides, I am very sure,
 you will find very few, in the church at
 large, who want select me, and I want
 be sorry you or my brethren in Ohio, would
 commit yourselves in any manner, on my ac-
 count. It is true, were I to range the Union, and
 choose the persons first to nominate me, if I
 must be nominate at all, yourself, bro. Jacob
 Yarny, and David Yarny would be my choice.
 These are the pioneers of the west; the lead-
 ing men who planted an Methodist in the
 west; and no men on earth are as much be-
 loved by me as these my fathers in the
 ministry. I believe, if you survey the matter
 carefully, with prayer to God, you will
 see more cause to drop your paravante
 nomination, than you have ~~now~~ to make
 it. With these honest views, I leave all
 issues to the good Providence of God, where
 adopt. chit, Methodism truly is.

I am exceedingly glad to learn that my venerable father Dr. Hamy is well, so well that he feels. I remember when he took me by the hand, saw Lushman, that I was, and treated me with all tenderness. Had it not been for his paternal care, I would probably have been entirely discommoded, and would have ceased to ~~be~~ travel a few months after I began. Please remember me affectionately to him and let him know that he has one son in the gospel, at least, who most filially remembers him, and will cherish to his latest breath, the paternal oversight which he exercised towards him.

There is no concert in reference to general conference, as far as I know. We have no information from brothers France and Trimble. I presume they will set out from their districts. Bro. Schon has determined to go via Clarksville, and will set out early. Bro. Pope wants set out for here on the Monday week before Gen. Conf. I have promised to meet Lusher, Sauls in Baltimore or Philadelphia, in view of consulting him respecting the various publications contemplated. Bro. Hamme and myself have thought of spending the Sabbath week before Gen. Conf. in ~~Philadelphia~~ ~~or~~ ~~to~~ ~~Wilmington~~, and the Sabbath before conference in Baltimore or Philadelphia. I would, if possible, to spend a day or two in Philadelphia, in order to see or inquire about the operations of the Amer. S. Schaal Union. Now I would solicit

you to go when Hamme and I set out, and you can aid me much in the important matter about S. Schaal Books particularly, then the Social & Domestic Library, and the Books for Preachers. We want then need to set out from Cincinnati between Monday 15th of April and Thursday the 18th in order to have time enough to accomplish these purposes. Do try to go at this period. After I shall hear from Mr. Sauls I can inform you more definitely. But I do believe it is important for the cause of religion for you to take this much time before general conference, in view of the interests at stake.

I have received from Paris 52 thick volumes, similar in size of leaf to Clarke's octavo commentary. 27 of these comprise a course on the Bible. 27 embrace a course on Theology. These are composed of the best selections, from 200 of the best Catholic authors. They arm their clergy with all Protestant weapons against Infidelity, except the truth of Protestantism. An examination of them only confirms me in the correctness of the Books proposed to be published for Preachers. Please write soon and let me know your views on the proposal to go, as mentioned above for general conference. Yours in Christ
Rev. James B. Finlay. Chas. Elliott.