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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

8-27-1844

Letter from John McDonald to James B. Finley

John McDonald

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Rev James Bowdley Finley
Marion Ohio

Harvard City
I need 3

Oct 9 1844

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Pellissippi county, Ohio, August 27th 1844
Old friend James
yours of the 9th inst. duly came to hand, and we all gratified to hear of your welfare, and sorry to hear that your old helpmate was in delicate state of health.

A camp meeting was held near our meeting house, under the control of the Rev Messrs. Brown and Stewart. This meeting was numerously attended, and the highest order was maintained during its progress. There were present several thousand of our citizens, the number of wagons and other carriages was over three hundred. The people who had charge of the meeting deserve much credit for their patient vigilance and gentlemanly deportment during its continuance. There were several other ministers present, some of whom displayed considerable talents in pulpit eloquence. A considerable number were said to be converted, and a number of new members were added to the church. Perhaps there never was a meeting in the state, where so much order and good feeling was apparent. Every one present appeared to be in good humor with themselves, and with all who were present. It was indeed a social gathering, which produced a "feast of reason and a flow of soul," a meeting of peace and good will to all the human family. The meeting commenced on the 15th and closed on the 20th inst.

I have nothing particular to write about, but still I concluded a few empty lines from an old friend would not be unacceptable to you. Messrs. Brown and Stewart so far as I know have been very acceptable on this circuit. They did not like, so still form part of the circuit, the whole circuit was their party. This was just as it should be.

In placing out the preachers on their various circuits, if Mr. Brown should not be stationed among us again, I have doubt, Joe Sharton would be well received on this circuit, he is a young man of talents, and unblemished character. Please mention this subject to my friend Mr. Marley. Mr. Marley and me correspond occasionally. He is a man of a clear head, and I believe a sound heart. Tell him that I love him much. Tell old Charles Elliott that I respect him much. Notwithstanding I think he went wrong at the General conference. He should be damned who commits errors, we would all be in a dangerous situation as it respects the future. Truth and right appears to be a plain course, yet so many good men take various directions, who assure himself that he has taken the true tract, and that all who take a different direction are lost in a dense fog. A bigot would answer, I know that I am right, and all others are in error.

David Reed and ^{Frank} are now here and I am writing while they are sleeping, and of course I must ask your indulgence

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and
 wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are
 well and happy. I have been very busy lately,
 but I have managed to find some time to write
 to you. I have been thinking of you very much
 lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I
 hope you are well and happy. I have been very
 busy lately, but I have managed to find some
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