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James B. Finley Letters

12-30-1845

Letter from George W. Walker to James B. Finley

George W. Walker

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Cincinnati Dec 30/15
Rev. W. B. Hinckley,
Dear Brother

Having learned from
Brother Marley, that you expect to be at home on New Year's day,
I hasten to address you a line in reference to the settlement
of affairs between Dr. Latta Elliott myself &c at the last
Ohio St conference. Dr. Latta has published a letter Dec 4th in
the Richmond Christian Advocate, in which he makes a heavy
thrust at Dr. Elliott, and myself. They represent that I having
charged him and E. W. Selton; upon learning that he had
prepared to prove certain things against Dr. E; came to him
Dr. L. and wished to withdraw the charge, and he refused to let
it be withdrawn, being glad of an opportunity to expose the conduct
of Dr. E. That afterwards there was a conference of the parties
and he was ready to prove thus and so if he had of got the chance
but the charge was by Dr. friend that is myself. Magnanimous
I withdrew, and Dr. E chose rather to have it thus withdrawn
than to abide the consequences of an investigation.

Now I wish you to write immediately to me your best recollection
of my course and that of Dr. E at the time of the interview
we had in the Class Room at 9th Church. I have got a letter
from Brother Moody, and his recollection is very good; so with
Dr. E himself; but I want your testimony, as I intend to
contradict Dr. L's letter, and set the matter in its true light.
The points to which I wish to call your attention are those
Did I or did I not, at the time of that interview, state that
since the interview I had with Dr. L and E. W. Selton, out
of which the one you were at grew; I had heard that it had been
run over to some extent, that I was looking out through
fear of consequence, from the investigation of the charges I
had preferred against Dr. L and S. Did I not pronounce, it falls
and state, that if it was those thoughts by any of the parties
or was here after to be thought or said, that I fear or shrink
from an investigation; or wished to evade an investigation.

W. B. Hinckley
German town Ohio

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572

that I should go no further in that way, settling business; that
so far as I was concerned the business must take its course in the
regular way, whatever might be the consequences; did I not say
that though this might seem to savour of pride or attribution in
me yet under all the circumstances, I take this ground. Said I know
that it is said that he who is first, and goes farthest to make and
keep peace is the greater victor. But if it is thought that I had
consented to this interview, and mode of settling these difficulties
because I would avoid an investigation after presenting charges, I
now say that I am ready to meet my responsibilities, before the pro-
per tribunal. Did not Mr. Schon reply and say no one here
believes or says you are backing out; it is mutual, it is mutu-
al, we have mutually come to gather to see if we cannot settle
our difficulties our selves, without going any further or trouble
ing the bone with them. And did I not give an account of
the interview between Latta, Schon, and myself, stating that
Schon came to me, and requested to speak with me, that I
went with him in to the basement, and that he made cer-
tain representations to me, as to the disadvantages he was under
from family afflictions, the absence of one of his principal wit-
nesses, and the prejudice of the Cong. as he supposed. And did
I not say that Mr. Schon requested me to have an interview
with Dr. Latta, that at his request I consented, and he went
and brought Dr. L. in, that we had a conversation; and that
I had agreed at that time, if yourself and Dr. Elliott, would
agree to it, to try to get all the parties concerned together
and if we could settle our difficulties ^{ourselves}, our selves I should
be pleased, if not they must take the regular course. Did I
not say Latta or Schon object to any of my statement, as incorrect, did I
not either by silence or by answer admit all I said to be
true. Did either Latta or Schon, by word or act manifest
any unwillingness to settle the difficulties in the way they
were settled; or did they or either of them expressly wish
to have them postponed before a committee, or the confere-
nce.

Did not Dr. Elliott say at the time that he had no acknow-
ledgements to make, - that he had charged no one - that he

had charges in his pocket which had been presented against
him by Dr. Latta, which he expected and was ready to meet
before the proper tribunal - that he had done the best he could in
his present relation to the church, if it was to do over, he did not see
that he could do otherwise than he had - that some thing which
he had written, Dr. L. had taken exception to, and appeared to think
them pretty severe - and perhaps they were, but he thought they
were called for - they were not intended to offend or injure Dr.
L. in any way - if they had he was sorry for that - but he had
done the best he could under these times which are calculated to
try men's souls. Did Dr. Elliott appear to have any wish
to avoid a formal investigation of the whole matter.

Once more. Was Dr. Elliott to publish any thing in reference
to the difference between you and Dr. L. unless furnished by
yourself and Dr. L. mutually - Latta says he was and that
abuse him for not ~~doing~~ doing it. - My recollection is
that if you and Latta furnished any thing to gather in
reference to the matter he was to publish it. This is Dr.
Elliott's recollection of the matter and Schon admits
before calling that such was the fact - but I have lost
all confidence in the whole of them.

Now my old friend your immediate attention to this
be of great service to the cause of truth and justice betwe-
n man and man, and will save the church from sufferin-
g through the injury inflicted upon her ministers. Let me
hear from you at your earliest opportunity.

Though merely we are all alive and in ordinary health
and our prospects in the church are cheering. I hope this
may find you and yours in the enjoyment of every needful
blessing. Pray for us

I am as ever yours in the best
of bonds

J. W. Waller