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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

5-20-1846

Letter from P.A. Mutchner to James B. Finley

P.A. Mutchner

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Recommended Citation

Mutchner, P.A., "Letter from P.A. Mutchner to James B. Finley" (1846). *Finley Letters*. 264.
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Recd. Muchmore
May 1846

Geo. Ward

my D

Per James B. Finley

Ans. recd. May
22 1846

state prison
Columbus

Franklin County
Ohio

///

Jacksontown May 20th 1840

My dear Brother Finley

I received Your Letter a short time after it was written & it is scarcely worth while to say I read it with a great deal of Interest I hope You will not or have not inferred from any thing I wrote to You that I ever thought for a moment You had it in Your heart to distress me in this matter or any other the only Query in my mind was whether the Force of Circumstances would not compel You to do what under other Circumstances You would scarcely think of I supposed & still do from some conversation that we had when I was at Your House that You depended on my promise to pay the difference between Your old Germantown Farm & the one You have since on that confidently expecting this You had made no other provision to meet that claim a failure on my part to come up according to promise I well knew would place You in an unhappy position since I received Your Letter I have thought of little else but the Propositions You made to me. You held out an Inducement to me to hold on to the Land that I never could have asked if You had been my Father I thought I would make another vigorous effort to do so both for my own Interest & Yours but I find with the greatest possible Prosperity in my temporal affairs

there would still be an uncertainty connected with it the Reason of this is my only Chance would be to make it on the Circuits which would be to say the least of it fearfully uncertain & in case I should lose my Horse or have any sickness in my Family my Calculations would again be frustrated which would be no doubt a much more afflictive disappointment to you than the present one under these circumstances Brother Finley I feel afraid to venture again on that Sea where I have already been shipwrecked in regard to your second Proposition as I am the Criminal in this case though an Innocent one it is not for me to demur or propose but as the present state of affairs have come into existence contrary to my wishes & feelings & very much in opposition to both I do think Brother Finley Forty Eight Dollars would be rather too much for me to pay as a Forfeit on the account of a matter that I could not help or avoid if I had voluntarily given up the Land I think it would be different my Father received nothing as a Forfeit for having to take back the Land that he sold though it was a voluntary Act on the part of the Purchaser if I could have controlled this matter & had not been so painfully disappointed myself I would be willing to forfeit almost any thing I have on Earth that however

or would not be much. I know your Disappointment cannot be greater than mine in not being able to keep that Piece of Land and as it is an affair of Disappointment and Affliction to all concerned if you could conscientiously take Twenty Dollars & exchange Papers with me it would be to me a great Relief that sum would be more for me to pay than I need times that for most of the Men you generally deal with it is very seldom. I have that much at once when I wrote to you I had \$50.00 my Stone became due in a few days & a Bill for wood with some other things which has taken it all but Two Cents and now Mr. Finley I have written this with a great degree of delicacy not as Dictated but in the simplicity of my heart tell you the honest Convictions of my mind in regard to this matter my Paper is getting scarce & there is another subject I wish you would write to David Young to bring the subject of your Quarterage for last W. before the Oct. Meeting Conf and I will be prepared both to meet & manage it I think it would be better for him to bring it up & I do not think there will be any difficulty in amicably adjusting it write to him or to me with a Request to him I wish you would write to me Brother Finley at as early a day as you can conveniently

Mary wishes to be Affectionately Remembered to you we are all well

Respectfully Yours

Rev L. B. Finley

P. A. Hutchins