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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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7-18-1846

## Letter from James B. Finley to Werter R. Davis

James B. Finley

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### Recommended Citation

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To Wm Davis  
from Coleridge

Publicate

on an important  
subject

Wm Davis  
Churchville  
Fairfax County  
Virginia

Ohio

Coleridge July 18 1846

Dear Mr Davis this Morning I received yours of the  
15th instant, and now reply; It is true, that I wrote  
to three Preachers in my district; since I left, two of  
them was on business; the other was to Mr Carpenter to buy me  
some books; for the prisoners; one to Mr David young  
at his request, and that was all; nor did I think the less  
of those to whom I did not write; but, the others wrote  
me inquiring after my health; and my situation; which  
I took very kind of them; though, I make no claims, on  
them; for I have done nothing to ~~save~~ <sup>save</sup> them under  
obligations, to me; I have done what I believed, to  
be a duty, I owed to God, and his Ministers, & his  
Church; I ask nothing; I want nothing; of that kind;  
If Brethren are willing, to pay me any respect, for  
former friendships; I feel thankful, to God, & them;  
and if not, to my own master I stand or fall;  
I can assure you, that while I remained in the District,  
I was well satisfied with your course; and administration;  
in the Station; and do not know of any one  
but, what was; I have always tried to treat you as a  
son; in the Gospel; and expect to, as long as I live;  
But Mr Davis, you must take great care, or you  
will soon; the Mantle, of the ancient Hierarchs;  
to fix on a place for your labor; is not the shirt  
of Methodist Steward; and I Meligiously believe;  
that this spirit is gaining much ground; among  
many of our young men; of good of a Station or  
none. you are not the only Brother who  
are fixing their eyes on; this, and that place;  
and making claims; only let this spirit prevail  
and then fair well, have not many Brethren  
who have never been in a Station, some claim too;  
or are their certain coats; in the Ministry, what  
are to be sewers, of word, & drawers, of water for  
all the rest; Mr Davis this looks, ingenious, and  
I know, upon second thought; cannot find a ~~defect~~  
in your generous heart; or else I have been mistaken  
in the Man; you could not always let, the most



and throw the bones to a brother; a Generous, noble,  
high minded, man will always know; when the poor  
Selfish, growling, proud Self conceited; — will be  
held in contempt. I have no doubt but you would sustain  
your self in almost any of the Stations in this Conference  
but I was sorry to hear you say I claim it as my due;  
to go to the Miami Valley and then have as good an  
opportunity as any that has been so long in the work as  
there been; and the deep mortification that you would  
feel if your friends; should permit you to be crowded  
aside; to give place to other men; Dear Bro you ought  
to have looked this over; the Spirit it ~~dictates~~ dictates  
is wrong; and you must Bro Davis bare with me  
as your friend; for telling you plainly there is  
a great deal to much self in it; others have claims  
as well as you; & you have now two years <sup>been</sup> in a  
good comfortable Station; and if you should not  
get a Station this year but let some of your  
Brethren who have as much claims as you; have  
a preference; if it be any, to be in a Station; would  
look much more generous and it would to me  
look much more like W R Davis. It is true  
that I have nothing to do in the laborer nor do I  
ever expect again; to have; but when I was there I  
always labored to treat the preachers equally;  
and I often felt sorry for you; when I heard you  
complaining, about those of your own age, and  
standing in the Ministry; be my Stationers and  
just in hope of license, and that you was right;  
when that it my power to redress this grievance  
I done so; because I thought you had equal claims  
with them and when all things were equal; ~~then~~  
now they Bro put yourself in the place of some  
you know; who have never had a Station; and  
think that they feel just as you did;  
I am sure Bro Davis when you think this  
matter over you will think as I do. <sup>the</sup>  
I would much rather, share the good & hard  
with my Brethren and have their good will

than to eat my Morsel alone; I now feel  
that my Responsibility is nearly over; as it  
concerns the prosperity of the Church; I have  
contended through nearly forty years; for Methodism  
and the Spirit of Reverency; I have gone where  
I was sent; without murmuring; and thought  
any place in Gods vine yard; was good enough  
for me; now it remains for you young  
men to step forward, and bear your part  
of the burden; and perfect what is lacking  
in the glorious work of our Lord & Saviour  
but Bro Davis I am sure that if you all  
begin to look for far Stations and the  
highest places, that your glory will be soon  
turned in shame & confusion;  
Let all agree that the good of the Church  
& the glory of God be first consulted; and  
accommodated. Then let the next follow, which  
the principle of Equality; & Brotherly Kindness;  
and this abominable spirit of favoritism  
and the spoils for the party; <sup>by some with</sup> Do full well  
that I am free to God that I am his free man  
that I am bound by no association under  
heaven; but that of the Church; and no  
claims can be made on me, from private  
influences; I know I am hated for my independance  
and some of the young men of this Conference  
are backbiting and trying to defame my character  
but I pity them; and look down on them as I would  
a spiteful puppy; snapping at my heels;  
I am preparing to meet them all; at a prop-  
er time. Let God the Eternal Judge will  
do right. May God bless you and make  
you always an open dignified & generous  
Methodist Preacher; full of grace & truth  
in the power of your Present & Old Fund  
Amen  
W R Davis — — — J B Smith