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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

9-1-1846

Letter from Francis A. Morrison to James B. Finley

Francis A. Morrison

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No 124 - Box 5
Dear Bros

Mutual Sept 1st 1846

No doubt you have heard of the difficulties in the Church at Mechanicsburg which resulted in the Expulsion of John Milice & Samantha Mann two of the most prominent Members in the Church. At present that place much I could inform you of respecting the trial &c But perhaps you have been informed of that from different Quarters and in different ways. I will only state my views respecting the matter so far as I have had a chance of ascertaining ~~which~~ being at the trial both before the Committee and before the Conference. Must say in my opinion as they are as clear of the charge as you or any other person could be. And I verily believe that if any other Man Belonging to your conference had managed the case ~~instead~~ instead of Bro Young it would have terminated different. I could say much on the course the trial was conducted But will desist as you will hear much. It was generally thought that at least 2/3^{rds} of the Conference would go in their favour But from the fact that a speech delivered by Bro Mann being so hostile changed the minds of some so that two of the Majority was against ~~which~~ them which was acknowledged by some that voted against them that it was the course that Mann took that changed their votes of course it was not the evidence the fact is I can see no evidence ~~at all~~ by which a decision can be made against them. Application will be made at your conference

For Another trial of the case if it is possible
to grant one I think it best - It does appear
to me to be a great affliction to the parties
during their lives to be ~~manded~~ Bear the charac-
ter of Adulterers When at the very outset
It is impossible to tell a man from a woman
at half the distance the witness stated he saw
them to know them Just that fact was enough

[Handwritten signature/initials]

PO 6

Rev. La. B. Finley
Piqua,
Mutual Ohio
Aug 31

1846
J. A. Morrison
The evidence you can get of
open shame if you wish
in confidence

to the ~~fact~~ ^{charge} his evidence aside yet that was not
permitted to come in as evidence being ruled
out by the Chair As you have much influence
in your conferences I do hope you will
try and get them Another trial I go for char-
acter in church and state and if I thought there
was even a shadow of guilt I would take a
different course But from the knowledge I
have of my little Dutch John I cannot
nor I will not give him up - The woman
I have no knowledge of only from the character
given her which is the very best guide up to the
charge - Doct Owen Dr Lawler - Judge Owen
and the some of the most prominent men
we have believe it all to be a ~~hoax~~ ^{hoax}
get information of Mr Chase will be satisfactory
J. A. Morrison