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James B. Finley Letters

11-26-1847

Letter from James S. Cheever to James B. Finley

James S. Cheever

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Rev James B Finley
Columbus Ohio

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For Charles
Dec 1847
Death of Sister Elvira
arrived Dec 3 1847

India Nov 26 1847

Dear Uncle

In course of the short history of
My life I have never been called on to discharge a duty
to a friend so painful as the present — and that is
to Communicate to you the death of my Companion
Elvira has left us — But thanks be to our heavenly Father
She gave us the great & glorious Consolation a few days
before her death that she had an unshaken Confidence in the
Saviour — and while contemplating on the Value of the
Shed Blood of Christ, she clasped her hands and shout-
ed Glory? Glory?? — She often sang during her
sickness With Joy We Meditate the grace of our high Priests
about — And soon will the toilsome strife be o'er
of Sublunary Care &c — we had not the pleasure of
a conversation with her in her last moments, she died sudden-
ly & unexpectedly, altho we did not expect she would last
long — the last two or three days of her illness she was not
able to talk much and it was with the utmost difficulty that
she could speak or we could understand her — in consequence
of the swelling of her ~~larynx~~ ^{throat} She took sick four weeks
today, and Saturday last about seven o'clock P.M. she
breathed her last in great ease — Let me assure you
in the loss of Elvira you also have lost a friend — Elvira
always spoke well of her Uncle James, she told me often that
after the death of her Father that out of her own family, you felt
nearer to her than any of her relations.

She has left me with 5 Children the oldest fourteen years
old last August — if the youngest live until the twenty fifth
day of next month she will be two years old, and of course
blessed with health & strength I intend to keep them together.

Mother Finley is with us but how long she will
stay I know not — her Children in Iowa feel near to her and
I expect she will go to them — she intended to visit your family
this fall but it has got so late, and the roads so bad, she thinks
it doubtful whether she will be able to —
our neighbors have been very kind to us during Elvira's last illness
she had many warm friends — and her funeral was attended

by a large Concourse of the Citizens (our Church was crowded)
the Division of the Sons of Temperance of this place (which I have the
honor to belong) turned out on the occasion, and in the Division
room passed a set of Resolutions appropriate to the occasion. These
were published in our paper - a copy of which was presented
to us. It is a consolation to us to have kind friends
but Uncle James needs greater consolation than can be de-
rived from this source, and I feel to praise God for
the comforting influence of his Spirit vouchsafe to him on
that occasion. I do not wish Eliza back she has been
a child of affliction, and now praise God, she is
delivered from the afflictions & cares of this inconstant life.

When I cast my eye around on my six dear little
children, which so much need a Mother's care & instruction
my heart is almost ready to break with anguish, but I
sustain them as much as possible, my trust is in him who
has promised to take care of us - and who has promised that
all things shall work together for good to them that walk
uprightly - in looking to this source I find relief - and
altho' the loss I have sustained can not be made up to me in
this life - yet I can rejoice in God with the prospect of meeting
them when sickness sorrow pain & death are felt and feared no
more.

I solicit an interest in your prayers
O, remember me, when you appear a throne of grace
And may God keep us by his power unto final salvation
- in the prayer of Love much.

Affectionate Friend

James S. Cheever

W. I. Form me with a letter when you receive this and
you will confer a favor on
Yours - J. S. C.