

3-16-1824

Letter from William McLean to James B. Finley

William McLean

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters>

Recommended Citation

McLean, William, "Letter from William McLean to James B. Finley" (1824). *Finley Letters*. 322.
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters/322>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.

Washington City 16 March 1824

Dear Brother,

Yesterdays mail brought me a line from you, enclosing one for William Balan. You say a letter will meet you at Barnsville on your way to General Conference. I therefore do myself the pleasure of giving you a hasty reply. I thank you for the good wishes you express in your letter, and the anxiety you feel for my spiritual welfare. I would to god I felt a deeper solicitude for myself in regard to the things of Eternity, but O my soul how often do I reproach myself on account of my crooked paths, and ingratitude to a kind providence who has ever been my constant protector. Never, no never have I been more convinced of the folly & vanity of the world, its splendor and customs than I have during the present winter, and a moments reflection always causes me to

Wm McLean
March 16 1824

Perma James B Farley
Barnsville
Belmont County
Ohio

Free, Wm McLean
H. R.

499
000
5903
5
81
7
78
76
1
93
06
9.91

hold these things in contempt, when compared
with the salvation of my soul, and yet strange
to tell, I sometimes forget what manner of man
I am. When I examine my heart, I sometimes fear
I only have a name to live while I am
spiritually dead. One thing however in the
midst of my gloom encourages me, and that
is the desire & determination I still have to
endeavour to live for God. I would rather
be an humble follower of the Saviour, though
I should be doomed to dwell in poverty's
wail, than to sway a sceptre over this
great republic and live devoid of a
hope which extends beyond the grave.

I hope to have the pleasure of seeing
you in this city on your way to Baltimore
Congress will not adjourn before the middle
of May & some think the first of June.

Many of the members are anxious to
repeal the Law appropriating Ten thousand

Dollars for the civilization of the Indians.

The subject was introduced in the House of
Representatives by a Mr. Cobb of Georgia, and
it has been referred to a committee of seven
one of whom happens to be myself. Three of
the committee are in favor of repealing it, while
four including myself are opposed to it. I am
preparing a report to present to the House
against the proposition which I shall
offer in a day or two. I wish most
sincerely you were here to give me aid
& information, an effort will be made
to reverse my report in the House, and should
they succeed I shall lament it most sincerely.

I trust however that in so good a cause, I
shall be successful. It would disgrace the
government to repeal this Law and withhold
from so important an object this pitiful
sum. — That Heaven may crown you &
yours with her choicest gifts is the sincere
prayer of your devoted friend

I write in haste
Rev. J. B. Finley
Wm. M. Lean