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8-4-1829

Letter from Samuel Luckey to James B. Finley

Samuel Luckey

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W.A.T.H.

Rev. James B. Jenley
Sebanon
Ohio

NEW-YORK
AUG 6

1829
S. Luckey

DEAR BROTHER,

The Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, believing it highly important that a correct and authentic history of our several missions, particularly among the aborigines of our country, should be furnished—such an one as should embrace a full account of the origin and progress of the Missionary Society, with the missions under its care, resolved at their last meeting to enter into arrangements for furnishing such a history.

In order to carry this object into effect, they appointed the Rev. Dr. Bangs, Sen. Editor of the Advocate and Journal, to compile such a history; and to obtain the proper materials, instructed their Corresponding Secretary to address a circular to each of the Missionaries, requesting him to furnish information to the said Rev. Dr. Bangs, on the following subjects, viz.:

1. When and by whom was your mission commenced?—Describe also its local or geographical situation.
2. What was the number of the people, and their civil and moral state, at the time the gospel came among them?
3. What were their religious opinions and practices, their language and mode of living?
4. What were the principal impediments which the Missionary had to overcome?
5. What has been the annual increase or decrease of Church members?
6. What number of Schools, Scholars and School Teachers, natives or otherwise, are connected with your mission?
7. What influence has the mission on the public mind?
8. What are the present state and prospects of your mission?
9. How many native Preachers, Exhorters, and Class-leaders belong to your mission?
10. Any miscellaneous information which you may think calculated to make a history of the missions interesting and useful—such as original Indian anecdotes, antiquities, proverbs, usages, remarkable conversions and happy deaths.

On these several points, you are, dear brother, respectfully requested to furnish Dr. Bangs, all the information you can collect, as soon as practicable.

You have doubtless been required by the Bishops, according to the 11th Article of the Constitution, to make a regular quarterly communication, giving information of the state and prospects of the mission in which you are employed. In this it is confidently hoped that you will be punctual. In providing to do this, allow me, brother, to suggest the propriety of keeping a regular journal of passing events, which may be worthy of notice, and sending your report in this form. It is believed that such a course would give an increasing interest to these reports.

Yours affectionately,

SAMUEL LUCKEY,
Corresponding Sec'y. of M. S. M. E. C.

New York, July 20, 1829.

New York 4th Aug. 1829

Dear Brother,

Your connection with the cause of Missions, from the commencement of the operations of our Society, qualifies you to be particularly useful in furnishing materials of the contemplated history of their rise & progress, and the Board respectfully request that you would interest yourself in this matter—

With due respect & esteem

Your unworthy brother
in a peaceful Gospel
S. Suckley

Rev. J. B. Finley

Handwritten notes in cursive script, possibly a list or index, written in the right margin of the letter.

Faint, mirrored text from the reverse side of the paper, appearing as bleed-through.

RAMUEL SUCKLEY

Communicating Secy. of M. & N. S. C.

New York July 20 1829