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James B. Finley Letters

11-28-1818

Letter from David Young to James B. Finley

David Young

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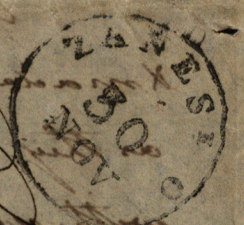
Young, David, "Letter from David Young to James B. Finley" (1818). *Finley Letters*. 359.
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Dear my darling the letter came by
 the train

Dear James B. Smith
 Dear friends



Yanville Nov 28th 1818

My good old Friend.

I rec^d your of the 30th ult, this morning. It raised my spirits a little to think that so long & so much absence had not subdued me quite friendless so far as it respects myself I am afraid that there are but few of my old friends who have so much charity as to wish "I pray for my prosperity" while (as I think) I am honestly & necessarily employed behind a mouldboard — Be it so! They must think & say as they please. — Avarice! Covetousness! hard words with out number — I make no reply except I am in a while think "I am avarice." But I know, that you know me, never to have been one of those little souls — passing hearing Mr. Preachers — Pray James do you think can you believe that if I could command as much money as would meet the representations of some people that I would confine myself to the every day confinement of a Bank after travelling so extensively, & regularly as I have done so many years? It is my loss, it is my penitentiary — all my alleviation on this point is that a sense of duty & a good conscience bears me up — I wanted to go to last conference but not being able to do the duties of a P. Preacher, & my family circumstances

requiring it I attended to my business & sent up
up my epistle & my prayers. My wife is so much afflicted
with the Rheumatism &c that she perhaps will never be able
to ride on horse back as far as Shubenville again.
Most cordially would I gratify you with a visit if
it were consistent.

I know by experience that few men are capable of
lasting friendship. But James there are some with
whom you might trust every thing but your soul
& that too were it not for their inability to save it.
I am David still. That ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~man~~ ^{man} that trusted
in me & was idly & is yet unborn. When I think
"On past times my soul is harassed up as well as your
"The mournful remembrance of past pleasures."
your stay cannot be much longer in that "Muddy
melancholy" region.

That "Unmoved corner" & "Selected friend" of which you
speak, I do not know how to find, or where to find them.
But my dear, if you will condescend to make the place
near enough for your own convenience, I'll vouch for
trying to be your social companion & friend, until you
be weary of my attentions.

You have not said whether you wish to live in
Towon or County. But in either case perhaps you
might be as well accommodated about here as any
where else. You can buy a lot in Towon you
can get a small tract of land in the neighborhood.
This place is fortunately cursed with very few preachers
— a great many is perhaps the greatest curse.

I really wish you would come here to live that I might
go to your house to borrow some little thing once in a while.

Write me what sort of property you want how much
what pay? Does if you cannot be accommodated property
here is not so high as about Shubenville, but the time
is coming when it will be worth higher. This is a
good time to purchase all you want is ready
money.

As you have grown too honest to steal skeletons
& made yourself humble enough to beg them — such
as they are I'll enclose you 2 or 3. If they sound well
with your Master let me know, pay the postage & you
shall have shells till you perhaps tire the people if you
grow not weary yourself. You say you are out of
subjects. How do you think I do. I preached here
4 1/2 years — year before last preached more in this town
than either of the travelling preachers. Last year did
the same & since last July till within a few weeks
preached twice almost every sabbath.

I enclose the loose papers enclosed & you have the
whole series.

I enjoy moderate health. Mr. Young is much
afflicted. — We are trying to serve God &
hope for the time when all is health.

I am as ever your sincere friend

J. B. Truitt

R. Young

If you wish me to write by first mail — but left me in
the dark where to direct — I'll therefore send this
to Shubenville.