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James B. Finley Letters

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Letter from David Young to James B. Finley

David Young

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Lynch &

Rev James B Finley
Hamburg
Ohio

Dr Old Friend

May 19th 1885 Greenville

On my arrival at home yesterday, I found yours of the 4th Instant in the office — and as you seem to have incurred so much unnecessary (not guilt) you not writing to me more frequently, so delay might put me also as much out with myself — No matter for cause or occasion you write me another letter & this is intended for some kind of an answer.

The "speculating mania" as you term it is not confined to any section of the country — The cause of this evil being so far extended, is the unnatural & enormous ^{which} issues of paper purporting to represent money, but will not now procure near so much property of any kind as our circulating medium would have done before it was so plenty — And the ideas of high prices turns the brains of our simpletons & laziness, & avarice sets almost all the people & too many preachers afloat for distraction in both worlds —

To me there is nothing unexpected said of Taylor & Wilson. I don't know how out went my calculations! I am truly glad to hear of your improved health and "happy seasons" in the Lord in your own soul & many of your old friends who are still holding on their way —

It must be a great consolation to you to know that though your Father is gone back into second childhood; yet he loves religion & his "Greek Bible" & that he may (when called) go hence in full triumph of Faith! Live a little longer & we shall both (if spared) be as helpless as the Old man is now.

May we then have God & good Friends to console us! — 'Tis pleasant to know that our B. Concern & Paper are prospering — if the Norwalk paper be merged into the Concern. I hope it will be on better terms than the Northern Journal was merged into the G. Advocate. There is such a thing as buying gold too dear.

With regard to the divisions of Conference — you know Pittsburgh wants a division — Just the question rather "Shall Pittsburgh & Ohio be made into 3? or shall Ohio alone be made into 2 conferences?"

In deciding the above we would be prepared to propose you need hardly be reminded that Pittsburgh wants all our North Side in exchange for the Clarksburg & Logan Townships!

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and is it to be expected that the war-like Michigamians will be satisfied with any thing short of coming down to Columbus? & by the bye if Michigan be set off as a Conference next Gen. Con. it may ruin it — it is not the safest way to turn of children (notwithstanding their conceit) to shift for themselves — When & where you have had so many instances of their ignorant stumbling and falling into the mud, if not into the fire!!

As to "Our College business" all I think necessary to say on that subject at present is that "I do not believe it will ever do much good while H. B. B. has influence enough about it to misplace either directly or indirectly such men as Gilding!" — — —

Shurgfield may be just such a man as would be wanted to Aid Maria — But I know too little about him to say so or indeed to give any opinion on the subject.

The circumstances of our Superannuated & half efficient Bishops is a serious subject — I would say upon that that the Episcopal expense was now sufficiently high — that if it be necessary to increase their numbers the amount now drawn from the concern should not be increased but divided among them judiciously. — Our Economy provides their Quotage as it does for others — For the balance of their support that is allowed by the several Conferences where they reside, so that it may be altered at any times. So that it seems to me that the "much murmuring" you mention on this subject is either without foundation or else it ought to be levelled at the A. Conference or which is the same thing their committees.

This being premised your contrast of Saker with Saddle seems to me to be either unwarranted or out of place. like men who had been equals but in the wisdom (or folly) of the community one is put in office where there are pugilists over & above the wages each formerly had. — Now he who is left out murmurs or his pretended friends for him — I am not sure that this murmuring may not be as much owing to the makers & render of it being out of the office as out of the enrolments. I think a bishop ought to be liberally supported & that all his support should generously and religiously expended — nothing mean — nothing profane about him.

It is very astonishing to me that I have not the least recollection nor knowledge of what you call the "Graham case" though you letter affirm that I ought to be familiar with it. My ignorance here gives me trouble — I wish you would write me the first opportunity the nature and circumstances of that case.

And now my dear brother I wish you had your wish if there is nothing wrong in it "That we lived close together" oft would I see you — & we would exchange our joys & sorrows bear one another's burdens & so fulfil the law of Christ. For I too am old & rather "alone" among the present generations of Preachers — who seem to stand aloof from me as if I was too old & antiquated to be any company for them — or for shame for I should find out their ignorance (for they pretend to think on all sorts of matters) that I know a great deal more than I do.

I never will, I never can forget the Polish Mountains. The good hand of God was strangely manifested in that dark Providence, & our miraculous deliverance from the jaws of death June 1st 1832.

I have had very good health for me this year so far — met my appointments regularly, & have had some good times in my own soul — & some refreshing seasons among the people of my charge — My Quarterly reports however are not of a very flattering cast, being half a hundred sheer loss for Quarters is a little appalling. I have a hope of reaching heaven when all my trials are done, where I hope to meet you & Sister F & all that are near & dear to us by the ties of nature or grace. Remember me to any & every old acquaintance who would be right glad to hear from your old host & long tried friend.

W. Finley

D. G. Jones

P.S. I direct this to Pillsbury