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James B. Finley Letters

5-14-1847

Letter from J. Walters to James B. Finley

J. Walters

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PAID

Mr. J. D. Simley:
Columbus:
Ohio.
" Pa.

PAID
MAY 18 1857

Paul J. Walters
May 14
1857

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Dayton May 14th 1857

Dear Bro. Simley
When I last saw bro. Musgrove here, he promised conditionally to attend our Christmas I. Meeting, if written to. I accordingly wrote to him of the time & stated that should he be prepared to come "nil mihi rescribere." - but if he could not be present to write to us: receiving no response we naturally inferred his intention to come. As however he did not. I wrote about a month afterward to know what was the matter using my Countryman's "nervous language" - "dead or alive you must write to us" - but still all in vain: all remained "a dead silence." As so long a vacuum never before occurred in his correspondence my family know not what to make of it, or to what cause to ascribe. I cannot think I can ever forget a regard so deeply laid & so long cherished. When I first took him "as one of twelve" to board my twelfth of the year when another door was not open for his reception, I (as he said) laid a deep foundation for his gratitude & that I hope never to forfeit. John Demps remarked, "Simley has an old grudge at Oxford & has palmed a blind man upon us." Well before bro. M. was a month in my house such was the character given him by my family that he was called to board at every house. Alas! how vacillating are even good men! Whatever human nature one may have been man is now a poor mean inconsistent inconstant creature even with all the polish a little grace can give him.

I should have been very glad to have seen and conversed with you of late, but you like others seem to have forgotten me but now "the die is cast." — from long and deep reflection I have thought the welfare of my soul & body depended on withdrawing temporarily at least from the M. & C. Church. This I suppose will sound strange language to your ear. Yet I think I can make it rather apparent, at least my temporary withdrawal. Bro Finley I have been the subject of more slander & hypocrisy from my good brothers and sisters in Dayton for the last 5 yrs. than would sink a dozen of better & stronger men than I.

When you write to Musgrove do say his old friend & family want to hear whether he is dead or alive married or single & tho' he may have written "try, try again."

My wife & family often talk about you & wonder & are sure that you do not call & see us.

That you may "come as a shock of corn cometh in his season" ripe for the celestial Granary on high — is my sincere prayer

yours as ever
J. Watters.

“ ”

When you write to Bro Musgrove please to tell him we receive neither letter nor any information from him. Please & "write us" — we would be happy to receive a letter from you. J. W.