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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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## Letter from Augustus Eddy to James B. Finley

Augustus Eddy

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I am very sorry that our old friend Raper felt it to be his duty, to write as he did, and I am sorry that our Editor should have felt it to be his duty to publish it - It can do R. no good, and I think it will do harm. I am very glad that you noticed his piece so mildly, for it grieves my heart to see our brethren "falling out by the way." I have just rec<sup>d</sup>. several letters, and one from Bishop Hamline - he seems despondent, but his letters breathe holy trust in God.

What a lovely "Olive branch" is seen, in the last Adv.! But it is all of a piece - Can they hope to rob us of our name? have we ever chosen them for God Fathers? - The church "North!" Now I think that neither "My Lord Bishop," soule nor his smaller satellites, with all their Negers to help them, will force the word "North" upon the unchanged Methodist E. Church. I like Old Charley's spunk, he says that will give no answer to this name, "that will neither plead guilty or not guilty," to such a name.

We are all well - I hope that you will be able to read this - it is a "long letter."

A. E.  
You will see that a part of this is only for your own eye.

Chillicothe, Dec. 14. 1847  
Dear Bro. Finley,

Your very kind & welcome letter was rec<sup>d</sup>. a few days since, and would have been answered before but for an unusual amount of care and labors, within a few days past. Bishop Morris has been with us, & preached four noble sermons, and visited a good deal "from house to house" and on last Thursday I took him in a Buggy to Hillsboro and returned on Friday in the midst of mud, rain, & awful high waters in safety - Neither "drown't nor kill't." I will now answer your queries.

1. We are well pleased with our place of residence, and our appointment, altho' we should have preferred an appt. along the western border on account of our children left behind, and my wife's people, and I doubt not but I could & would have done so, if my old P. E. & friend Finley had been in the Council. But this is a pleasant little charge - about 200 members. 2. Our congregations have nearly doubled our class & prayer meetings are excellent, and I have preached generally with more comfort and liberty than I have for years. Our prospect is fair for a good year.

3. My intercourse with my "neighbors," is very pleasant.



he is an excellent preacher, bears acquaintance  
well, and is doing his <sup>work</sup> honestly & faithfully, and  
with some success.

4. The Delegates from Indiana would not (all)  
have been the men of my choice, altho' they are  
with one exception worthy & talented men, but  
men of no experience (Simpson excepted) in General  
duties. I do not think that Wiley & Ames were  
left out, on account of Church politics,  
but by the wireworking of W. M. D. who had  
a general Agency last year, and travelled thro'  
the Conf. & I have no doubt that he laid his  
plans to defeat M. & A. Whom he hates, because  
they have trimmed him down for his fallies, &  
are more popular with the preachers & people than  
himself. It is to be deeply regretted, that Ames  
is left out of the delegation, as he is a true  
man, and would have had more influence in  
the Genl. Con. than the <sup>of their</sup> whole delegation put together.  
As to Wiley he lacks firmness in a storm, tho' he  
is a very good man. I agree with you that "the  
times are out of joint," and I tremble for our dear  
Country, and for our beloved Zion! Have you  
read Mr. Clay's Lexington Speech? how noble—  
how just—how true! But the office holders will  
cry "aid & comfort," "Mexican traitor," and the whole pack  
from old Riskey of the Union, to the smaller curs

that feed, or hope to feed at the publick crib,  
will reiterate their vile slander, against this great man.  
And still the war rages, and our countrymen

are falling by yellow fever! Vomits—and the love  
the musket & the Lasso and dagger of the guerrilla,  
While after bloody & well fought battles, in which  
we have been victorious from Palo Alto, to Chapul  
tepec, peace is as distant as ever, and we  
cannot hold a rod of land, except by the  
sword. I believe that Jimmy Polk is heartily tired  
of the war, and his ambitious project has not only  
involved his country in debt & great loss of life,  
but he has wreathed the browes of Taylor & Scott  
Whom he hates with evergreen, while he is left  
almost without friends—without sympathy!

This war (in my opinion) will break up the democratic  
party, if indeed, it does not ruin the country.

I look forward to the Genl. Conf. with anxiety  
and dread—If we can allow the South their  
claim, or an equivalent, all will be well, but  
if not—disruption and hearthburnings will  
prevail thro' our beloved Zion! There is a  
Constitutional way to do it, but I fear that it will  
not be done. My prayer is that God may give  
you wisdom to meet the crisis in a proper  
spirit. The mind of our poor old friend M. Adams  
is almost entirely gone. Can't you come & see us?  
do try.

As ever yours  
Right Rev. Dr. Furley

A. Cady