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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

4-28-1848

Letter from James Laws to James B. Finley

James Laws

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Kingston. April 28. 1848

Brother Finley.

As you have always been my friend and have helped in time of trouble and of need I will ask you to help me again. I have sent a petition to the General Conference now in session stating the cause of my indebtedness to the Book Concern, which was the afflictions of my family together with the smallness of my receipts from year to year from the circuits which I have traveled in the year 36. I gave my note for \$736.00 of that I have paid \$670. leaving a balance of \$66. principle, and \$257.50 interest. The whole amount now against me on the note of William Burke is security is \$66. principle and \$227.52 interest. altogether is \$327.52. I ask the General Conference to forgive this in whole, or in part, at least the interest. I ask this because for 12 years I have been embarrassed with it, and with it every year I must be perplexed. I am not able to pay it. I have no means only what I get from my circuits, which will scarcely keep my family & wife and five children in cloths and bread without schooling the children. My wife lost her health in Washington & Georgetown 10 years ago, and her health is still very feeble. The Church as you know has had my strength from youth to old age, if I was a young man I would not ask such a favor, but I am old and poor. This is my apology for my petition. I wish you to attend to this matter for me. Bishop Morris advised to this cause. Brother offered in the most friendly manner to take up and present my petition, but as it was written for me by Bishop Morris I had to copy it and could not do it in Cincinnati. If any one object to my petition because Burke is security. I answer his is a voluntary security out of humanity and kindness to me, that I might have time, as I thought when I first prest, I could pay it if I had time. But after this my own afflictions have been severe and hindered me. But why should Burke pay it he never got a book or a cent. it was his kindness to me only which made him security. I am most truly
Yours &c

What
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Kingston
April 29

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Wm. Morris, B. Finley
Anti-Slavery
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Paris 3

There is no way to release me and hold him for any
part of the debt, and if there was, I would scorn the prin-
ciple no my friends shall never suffer on account of his
kindness to me, who there is no doubt with my friends in-
cinnate but he is broken up by endorsing for others.
of this I think there is no doubt. Brother Elcott and
Brother Stumble and Brother ^{Howe} ⁺ said they would give me
their aid and influence so I will lead the subject
with you. The petition comes in the same Mail with
this letter, directed to the Bishops and Members of the
General Conference of the M. C. Church in Pittsburgh. In
attending to this matter you will confer a favour that
shall never be forgotten, and I am sure my wife, children
and myself will all say if you get my petition granted
in whole, or, parts. I was hungry and ye fed me. I was
naked and ye clothed me. &c. and may your reward
be great upon Earth and in Heaven, and now praying
that the Great Head of the Church may be with you
and with the General Conference. I subscribe myself your
Humble friend & Brother
James Laws

Mr. I should be very glad if you will send the Pittsburgh
Advocate sent to me through the time of General Con-
ference, I will pay for to you on your return, or.
where two or three preachers get it in the same house
perhaps an old friend might get one, by speaking to the Editor
I now ask you, if you please to inform
me as soon as my petition is disposed of whether it is
granted or not. please inform.

Rev. J. B. Fitch

I am Yours &c
James Laws.