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James B. Finley Letters

6-28-1848

Letter from Michael Marley to James B. Finley

Michael Marley

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opened June 29

Rev. James B. Finley,
Columbus,
Ohio.

Recd
of M. M. W. B. Finley
June 28

Arkona June 28th 1848

Rev J. B. Finley.

Dear brother, I was informed by
bro. Saxton of this place that you purposed to visit
Arkona some time during the present year, and
I write to request you to set the time, and inform
me by letter, that we may be ready for you. I
hope you will not fail to come. I am pleased with
the doings of the general Conference on the great
questions which come before them, The Nullification
Act, we all expected, but it passed with more
unanimity than I expected. As to the property
question I think the course pursued was a good one
without making the question of right, a test question,
you propose to meet the claim set up, by referring it
to disinterested arbiters, and should the South sue
the Adversum of the suit will be upon them, not
on us. This action has had a fine effect on the
public minds in this region, and permit me to
say to you, that on this whole question of division
you have set yourself perfectly erect in the estimation
of the thinking portions of the people. Your speech
on the nullification act, done credit to your
head, and heart both. I was disappointed with
the vote of some of our delegates, on the first
resolution, on the property question, some voted
against it, that I expected fully, would vote for it.

I have just written a letter to Reed, in answer to one in which he asked my advice as to whether he should stay there or come home. This was a difficult question for me to advise him on, because all my feelings are in favour of his coming to Ohio but my Judgment tells me that his leaving at this time would greatly enfeeble the work there.

I suggested to him, that if he could be reconciled to it, it would be for the good of the Church, and the glory of God, for him to stay two years longer.

In that time the Western Virginia Conference will be organized, and he can man the District with such men as will be willing to stay, then he can leave in safety to the Church. But at present I feared the example of his leaving would induce many others to leave, and thereby greatly enfeeble the District.

In conclusion let me say come and see us and spend a Sabbath with us, write soon, and be assured in the mean time, of my sincere regard as a Christian brother, and fellow labourer in the Lord.

W. Morley