

Ohio Wesleyan University

Digital Commons @ OWU

---

Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

---

7-27-1848

## Letter from Tobias Spicer to James B. Finley

Tobias Spicer

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters>

---

### Recommended Citation

Spicer, Tobias, "Letter from Tobias Spicer to James B. Finley" (1848). *Finley Letters*. 584.  
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters/584>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact [earutigl@owu.edu](mailto:earutigl@owu.edu).



from you as soon as it may be convenient  
for you to drop me a few lines

Affectionately yours in the

Lansingburgh (Rensselaer Co) Bonds of the gospel  
N.Y. July 27, 1848. of Jesus Christ

Rev. James B. Finley

J. Spicer

Recd  
John B. Spencer  
August 27 48  
Ami

My dear Brother Finley,

After a long silence I sit down to redeem my pledge. The delay has not been owing to any want of friendship to my friend, nor want of a disposition to write, but want of time. Circumstances have been such since we parted that I have not enjoyed one leisure day until this present week. And I suppose I should not have leisure even now, but that I am confined to the house by illness (temporary only, I hope.)

Our conference set immediately after my return from Pittsburgh: and as soon as this was through I went to New York to assist in getting out the new Edition of the Discipline. And as soon as I returned from New York I set off once more through Canada, and have just returned.

I remain in the same relation as heretofore, a supernumerary, congratulating myself on my superior wisdom in retiring from the regular work before I become really burdensome. But I am yet endeavoring to do something to promote the cause of Christ. At present I am supplying the place of Br. Steel, who was stationed in State Street Socy. who has gone to spend some weeks in the west for the benefit of his health. I employ most of my leisure in writing



At our late conference, we expelled our Reverend Magician. His trial detained us about three sessions. The vote for his expulsion was nearly unanimous. He has appealed. He is in his glory. He said his chance to make a speech before the late General Conference was well worth going all the way to Pittsburgh on foot. He has been a very costly member to us, whole years of time have been spent first and last in dealings with him. Our Conference passed off ~~very~~ kindly. There was some fault found with Br. John Clark for a sermon he had delivered in Troy. He had in preaching on Being born again, stated that at our conversion all things were made new, that all the elements of holiness were introduced into the soul, and that all opposing elements were taken away. Most of the brethren agreed with him in the first assertion, but very few if any in the last. But we have a class of theologians among us who do not agree with him in neither the one nor the other. With them conversion embraces nothing more than pardon of past sin; our nature is just as bad as ever it was until it is entirely sanctified. There is no growing in grace previous to entire sanctification because a man has no grace to grow in. Well we had a little squabble. But Br Clark was permitted to explain himself which he did by saying that by "opposing

elements" he meant what the apostle calls "Enmity to God", he thought that at our conversion all "enmity to God" was taken away. This explanation made it more tolerable, and it passed off without any further trouble.

Some of our advocates for this new theology, are talking loudly of their own sanctification. Their theory is professor lephanism and Mrs Palmerism. Self-Consecration and belief we receive. We are then sanctified, no mistake.

As near as I can ascertain the doings of the late general Conference have generally very satisfactory to our people all through the north and east.

I have but little said as yet about the "New Arrangement of the Discipline". It has not gotten into circulation much yet in these parts. I hope it will give satisfaction; it will be very gratifying to me if it should.

Although my letter has become somewhat extended, I perceive it contains but little of ~~any~~ interest to you, so I suppose the sooner I bring it to a close, the better you will probably be pleased. I will do so by expressing my warm and sincere regard for you ever since our intimate acquaintance at the house of our mutual and excellent brother in Pittsburgh; and expressing a desire to meet from