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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

1-22-1849

Letter from J. Mathiott to James B. Finley

J. Mathiott

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Recommended Citation

Mathiott, J., "Letter from J. Mathiott to James B. Finley" (1849). *Finley Letters*. 614.
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when it may please the Lord to call her hence - During
long since "set her house in order" she uniformly exhibits
the cheerfulness and resignation of a Christian. - And
lastly but not less important sister Methiot (as you af-
fectionately call her) is to be seen every where, making
all hearts glad with her kindness, and her smiles. In
short Father Finley, so far as temporal matters are con-
cerned, I am certainly blest of all men. - And yet
even in the midst of this interesting family, I have
many, very many most uncomfortable moments.
In view of the awful responsibility resting upon me
to train up these dear little ones in the "nurture &
admonition of the Lord". I find myself feeding
upon "husks", with nothing else to offer those who
are so dear to me in this world. - I seem to know
my "Master's will" and yet I "do it not" - the hurry
of business, the cares of the world, constantly whis-
per "time enough yet". When will the time arise?
Will not you my dear Father Finley, be my spir-
itual adviser? I wish I could ride with you
to Springfield next week. - I have no doubt, while
devising ways and means to improve the moral
condition of others, I should myself profit by
your experience and Godly Counsel.

On reading your letter to my family, we
all expressed a wish, that we might have looked
in upon you at your home on New Year's day,
surrounded as you were by your children
and Grand Children & Great Grand Children
and all the comforts of life, it must have been
quite a Patriarchal scene. -

My family from the oldest to the youngest
desire to be most kindly remembered to you
with a pressing invitation to come and see us
soon. - And remember Father Finley we have

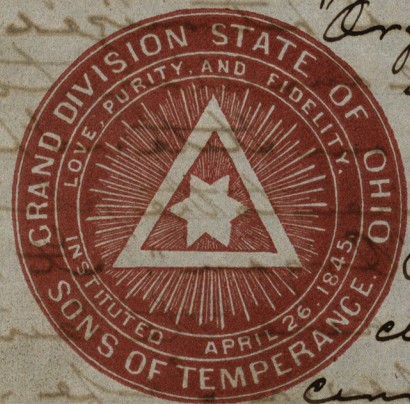
Newark Monday Morning
January 22nd 1849

Father Finley -

I received yours of the 18th instant by the
mail on Saturday night, just as I was finishing a long
communication to you, and which I soon found could
not be manufactured into an answer to your excel-
lent letter. - This production of my brain was there-
fore committed to the flames, and you will receive
this as a substitute. -

I have seldom been more disappointed than I
was a few days since, when I discovered that it would
be impossible for me to attend the next quarterly paper
of the Grand Division at Springfield. - I had got the
impression that the last Wednesday in January was the
24th and I had made my arrangements to start this
morning, and return on Saturday night, that I might
be ready for our Court, which commences on Sunday
the 30th. On Friday I accidentally discovered from the

"Organ" that the last Wednesday in January
was the last day of the month, which
will be the next day after the com-
mencement of the Court of Common
Pleas of this County. - My clients here
claim upon my professional services, which
cannot be disregarded, and my anticipa-
tions of meeting and mingling with the brethren at
Springfield are at once dashed to the ground. -



Don J. Mathew
Cincinnati Jan - 49

Rev. James B. Finley
Columbus
Ohio

receive the quarterly paper and explanation. He may receive it from the W. P. of his own Division, or from the G. W. P. If you are not in possession of it Bro Young will furnish it upon application. If you wish to visit Subordinate Divisions, you have a right to do so by virtue of your office, without any paper or explanation, let or hindrance whatever. The paper word of the Grand Division, I presume you have, it is changed at the annual October Session. If you have forgotten it, apply to the Grand Scribe when you meet him at Springfield. The G. W. A. is not only authorized to install the officers of Subordinate Divisions, but he also has the power to open new Divisions within his jurisdiction.

As G. W. A. I not only exercised these powers within my own jurisdiction, but on one occasion, I assumed the responsibility of opening a new Division at Montgomery Virginia, which was afterwards ratified and confirmed by the Grand Division of that State.

And now Father Finley, having answered your interrogatories, I cannot close this letter without expressing to you the grateful feelings of my heart for the interest you manifest in the temporal and eternal welfare of myself and family. Your sojourn upon our roof in the fall short as it was, has endeared you to every member of my household. Even little "Freet" (who you remember was the idol of the family) frequently speaks of you, and wishes you would come again, and talk to her about God, who takes care of little children. Master George too would give you a most cordial welcome. Our eldest and first born son Eliza has finished her education, and is again at home with us just preparing to act her part upon the stage of busy life. Mrs Culbertson and Miss Sidney are still with us. The old Lady, is merrily and patiently waiting the time

here, however the consultation of knowing that my place will be supplied by one fully competent to preside over the deliberations of the G. D. and an older, and better Temperance Man, than I am, or I fear ever will be. ~ I have the regalia of the G. W. O. and Red books in my possession, which I will send you by Bro Shillds. our delegate, and who will probably leave on Friday. I will direct him to call upon you at Columbus, and deliver the articles as soon as he arrives, that you may have a little time to look over your lesson. ~

I have already advised the Grand Scribe that you will be the presiding officer. He will be prepared to render you all necessary assistance. ~

If it had not been for this unfortunate arrangement of our Court, I would most cheerfully have accepted your invitation to spend Tuesday night at Vienna, and joined you as a Co. laborer in the cause. ~ I hope you will be there "single handed and alone" and deal out to the enemy such blows, as you are always sure to do when battling upon this subject. ~ I send you enclosed a General Commission as G. W. O. for Bro Charles W. Susin. ~ I thank you for the suggestion. ~ I know him to be a "good man and true" ~ Please send him the Commission, with my kind regards. ~

I am glad to learn that you are engaged maturing your plan for a Grand Division Temperance paper. If such a paper can be established, and patronized as it should be, it will be a powerful auxiliary to strengthen, and sustain the order in our State. ~ I hope however such a direction may be given to the plan that it will not interfere with the "Organ". It is certainly desirable that we should have the hearty concurrence of the Editors of that paper. ~ I hope you will confer freely with Bro Young on the subject. ~ As a matter of course the G. W. A. is entitled to

a suitable for your horse, as well as a house for yourself ~ I shall therefore expect you "bag & baggage" ~ I wish you would come soon. ~ Sister Melthill is relieved from her duties in the Kitchen, she has a girl now presiding over the duties of that Department. ~ I hope when you come again Mrs. M. will be able to give you a little more of her Society. ~ ~

Please remember me to the brethren at Springfield. ~ Unless presented by my preparation for Court, I will prepare and forward a report to the Grand Division. ~

Write me as soon as you return
And believe me

Yours in Love, Purity & Fidelity

J. M. Atherton

Rev. James B. Finley
Columbus
Ohio

P.S. - I had intended sending this letter by mail, but since writing it, I find that Mr. Coffey is going to Columbus tomorrow, I have concluded to send it, and the documents with him, as I am anxious you should have the books as early as possible. ~ I shall be anxious to know certainly that you have received them, will you please write me before you go to Springfield, and return the articles by Bro Shillds at the close of the G. D. that I may have them at Zanesville

J. M. ~