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James B. Finley Letters

2-6-1849

Letter from Solomon Howard to James B. Finley

Solomon Howard

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Springfield Feb 6/49

Dear Brother Finly:

feeling deeply interested
in the cause of education in our state,
and believing a reform or change ought to
be effected in our University at Oxford,
that it may accomplish the great object
of its founders, I write you that you
may exert your influence in having
suitable men recommended to fill the
vacancies which now occur: one third
of the old trustees go out this winter &
their places must be filled. Why should
one denomination have the sole manage-
ment of an institution that belongs
equally to all? It is admitted by all that
the University is & has been for some time
on the decline? Now we truly believe
if a ^{liberal course} more should be pursued its halls
would be filled with students, and it
would rise to be an honor and glory to
our state. It is no more than just and right
that there should be a change in the ad-
ministration of affairs, and that the citizens
of our state especially of this portion of it
should be more equally represented in the

Recd
Jehonon Howard
Feb 49

Rev James B. Finly
Columbus
Ohio



Board of Trustees and in the Faculty; this must sooner or later be the case if the Institution ever prospers. Knowing the influence you have with many of the members of the Legislature, I regard you as a friend to Antislavery and the cause of education to labor for the elevation of men of Catholic spirit, men who have more of the spirit of the age than we now have in the Board - you know the wants of the University - I would like to see you a member of the Board, it is just the place where you with energy and force can do much for the cause of education - I would like to be a member of the Board, not that I think I am especially qualified, but because my heart is in it, and you ^{know} where the will, the heart and soul, are in any enterprise, it will be a good substitute for any other disputes or differences which might exist. Your labors here together with others of the sons of temperance has been productive of great good, a nice dispute has been given to the cause. The members here are my zealous. I have been this afternoon earnestly solicited by three or four to join the sons. I think I shall join the band soon. Please write me as soon as you examine the ground

and let me know how the land lies. May the Lord grant you prosperity in all your labors?
Yours in love and esteem

Solomon Howard

James B. Finley