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James B. Finley Letters

4-6-1849

Letter from Joseph M. Trimble to James B. Finley

Joseph M. Trimble

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Rev. James B. Finley

Methodist Episcopal Church

Ohio

Cincinnati

Recd
J. M. Finley
Apr 1 1849

Cincinnati Ohio
April 6th 1849

My dear Mr Finley,
You may be a little surprised to receive a letter from me of the tenor of the one I propose to write, but I hope you will not condemn my motive. whatever you may think of my zeal - I very much regret to see my old, beloved friend, taking sides with innovation, of our rules as he has done in his puff of Hayton & J. Inker. Did not our rule say expressly, "Let the men & women set apart." I could apologise better for your virtual approval of the innovation in Hayton - Are you going to countenance the introduction of a spirit of misrule into our Western Methodist? If our rule may be trampled under foot so may another. If pre seats wont do, pewed ones may be tried. And all for the purpose of having better order,

O my dear Mr Finley that letter of yours is giving pain to many hearts that love you, & that love Methodism better than men. We have not forgotten how the efforts & zeal made to change our rules, without the consent of God Conference. Nor have we forgotten the Columbus Speeches & resolutions, on this subject. Now I do hope you will review that, & pledge not to oppose innovation And stand where

you have always stood. The defender of
Methodist Law & usages

I assure you that Slavery step is the
entering wedge to wider and more ruinous
departures from discipline; and if we wink
at it fare well to subordination and
fare well to some of the most important
destructive features of Methodism —

Now let me entreat, you beseech you,
one of our Fathers, in the Ohio Conference, one
that we want to love and honour while
living and when dead, do not, favour
or countenance these. New features of Misrule

You know I love you and have
always loved you, since my acquaintance
with you & I would rather ^{have} lost almost any
earthly possession, than to be compelled to
witness my old friend & beloved brother in Christ
virtually approving what Judge McLean calls
worse than poisoning our Churches.

What I say I say in this way
to you & I am done. If you think little
of my letter put it on the fire. A wounded
heart has dictated it but one that loves you
I assure you

Affectionately yours Br. in Christ
Jos. A. Smith