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James B. Finley Letters

9-1-1849

Letter from John McDonald to James B. Finley

John McDonald

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Recommended Citation

McDonald, John, "Letter from John McDonald to James B. Finley" (1849). *Finley Letters*. 647.
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Rev James Bradley Finley

at conference

Dayton

Harmon by
Rev Nelson

Sept 49

Rev John McDonald

449

Poplar Ridge, near Lattar, Prop county, Ohio, Sept 1849

My dear James.

Although I have ^{nothing of} interest to write, I have concluded a few lines from an old friend would not be uninteresting to you.

I have ^{read} your letter published in the Advocate, in which you clear up the penitentiary affair to the satisfaction of all honest inquiring minds.

The censure of fools, nor knaves, should not disquiet nor disturb our peace.

The Rev Mr Nelson, who has preached for us the last 2 years, is a man of talents, and is highly ^{respected} by most of his hearers. Some of ^{the} old shouting metho-

-dist, complain that ^{he does not} fire enough for a methodist preacher, because he does not brawl aloud, nor bang the bible to pieces on the pulpit, but ^{with} the reading, text-

-ting, examining men of the circuit he stands for. Mr ^{the} other preacher on this circuit is a meek humble man, who does ^{not} make high pretensions, but is fully

equal to his ^{own} opinion of himself; I think the citizens would be pleased should he be again returned to this circuit. . . There is a young man ⁱⁿ our neigh-

-hood, a local preacher, named Samuel Donahoo, who has ^{as} much preaching

talents, as any man of his opportunities could acquire. His character is as

free from reproach as any man I know, if ^{you} can procure him ^{a circuit} I have no doubt he will do himself and the church credit.

I have been much afflicted with Rheumatism ever since early spring. The inner works of the old body are sound, but ^{the} old frame work is giving way, from the wear tear of seventy five years.

My wife and children enjoy their usual health, and esteem you as one of the family. Tell old Charlee Elliot, and John J. Wright, that ^{of them} think often, and wish they may be blest in their basket and store, and live as long as life may be desirable to them.

As I write in pain from the Rheumatism in my right arm, I won't say no ^{more} but, I am sincerely your friend.

John McDonald

Rev J B Finley.

P.S. How insensible is our growth from childhood to manhood, after a while we are men in full vigor. After a while when we turn down the hill of life, how insensible is our decay, we do not feel the change of a day, a month or even a year, but still find our action, our strength giving way, and find our selves tottering down to helpless old age. Life under such circumstances is ^{not} much to be coveted. J. M.