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James B. Finley Letters

5-23-1850

Letter from J.W. Messick and Edgar Conkling to James B. Finley

J.W. Messick

Edgar Conkling

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Rev. Jas. P. Finley

Cincinnati May 23. 1850

Dear Bro

The undersigned presuming upon your acquaintance with the history of the Society of "Union Chapel", deem it unnecessary to enter into any detail of the circumstances out of which grow our Embarrassments. You are aware that we have no regular Ministry - No Church organization - that we are not permitted (independent of the other charges, in which we hold our membership) to participate in any of the instituted means of grace, common to our Church - other than such public ministrations of the word, as we can obtain at the hands of our Local brethren, and occasionally a Sermon from some member of Conference, who may be incidentally in the City, without appointment. Yet we have a neat and comfortable Church, a fine Congregation, and a Sabbath School, second in interest, to none in the City. We hold ourselves to be Methodist, as devoted to the principles and interests of the Church as any others - As willingly engaging in the support of all measures, calculated, or believed, to be promotive of her prosperity. We are desirous, even while we are thus embarrassed, to do all in our power to serve the Church of God, by contributing of the ability which He has given us, to the several interests, which are usually presented for support. Prompted by this desire we have met the claim of the Ohio Wesleyan University, presented by Bro. Durston by the purchase of fifteen Scholarships - And of the American Bible Society, by Bro. Strickland by the contribution of One Hundred Dollars. There are still before us for the current Conference year, the claim of the Missionary Society, and that of the Supernumerated Preachers fund.

Our object in this communication is to secure your services on some Sabbath to be designated by you, as best suiting your convenience, on which occasion we desire that you should present the latter claim to the consideration of our people. In making this request we are prompted by our knowledge of your willingness to do good of all

Mr. Webb
Jared & others
May 1850

Bro. Messrs.
Jared &
others

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possible Sorts - of your long, faithful and useful services to the Church - and also of your uniform liberality of sentiment, towards those who, in the spirit of our Holy Religion, differ honestly with you, on matters involving no moral principle, nor essential to the souls' salvation.

Will you have the goodness to reply to this and if you are pleased to accept the invitation, thus tendered you, inform us of the day when we may expect the pleasure of having you with us. And we should, furthermore be glad to receive any advice, counsel or instruction from you, respecting (what we conventionally believe to be) the Christian Enterprise in which we are engaged.

With prayers for your health and happiness,
We are Dear Bro. yours in Christ Jesus

Mr. Messick } Committee on Supply
A. M. Searles } of Union Chapel Pulpit
Eagan Conkling }

P.S. Admop. A. M. Searles