

Ohio Wesleyan University

Digital Commons @ OWU

Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

1851

Letter from James B. Finley to Rev. Abel Stevens

James B. Finley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters>

Recommended Citation

Finley, James B., "Letter from James B. Finley to Rev. Abel Stevens" (1851). *Finley Letters*. 666.
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters/666>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.

Wm
 Abel Stevens
 Boston
 Editor of Liberator

At Page
 address
 Eaton Oneida County Ohio is my

Dear Brother I leave me in good health
 as I have enjoyed for years; or since I left the Penitentiary
 I am much more than thankful to you and to the
 Abolition Advocate for giving some of our poor therapeutics
 in the Ohio Conference, the privilege of defending
 ourselves against some of the most violent measures
 that in my opinion ever disgraced a body of Minis-
 ters, calling them slaves the ambassadors of the blessed
 Jesus. Just because we would not believe and
 consent to act on the rule advising to build our
 houses of worship with free seats as mandatory and
 punishable by the excommunication of the discipline
 No doubt you are well posted up on some of the
 doings of the aristocracy of our conference via Walter
 Trimble Moody & Co. and no one has come in
 for more of their abuse than myself; Mr. Inskeep has
 been pursued with a Jerusalem Beal that would have
 been worthy of the Dark ages; and our beloved Bishop.
 James has been noised and abused in the publick streets
 of Philadelphia, and the brethren who have contended
 for the privilege of Family sitting and their houses

32 Days Three years & 3 months did I spend in the Ohio Penitentiary as moral instructor not as other ~~men~~ ^{men}. I lived in the prison with the prisoners every day Trojed at their breakfast table every morning and eat with the Guards. There the opportunity of P. E. by the appointment of Powers, for 22 years of my Thirteenth life, I have traveled the heaviest circuits of the western valley, and done and suffered as much as any man for the cause of God & Methodism on the west side of the Mountains according to my talents and at no time has my moral character been held in question either for sincerity, honesty or sobriety. My recent visit to the Conference at Little Rock on last September was a year ~~long~~ by Mr. Greaves Moody.

I have sought redress but none has been afforded me
So my dear friend if you will permit I will
in the fear of god and I hope with the threat of
a Christian Minister state my whole grievance
and then let the court & my brother Judge
and if they shall find me guilty I will not
object to be anathematized

If you will permit This: Please send me your
Excellent paper as a subscriber and I will
send you the subscription price by the next
communication. Perhaps other ~~will~~ others
who will subscribe

I am as ever yours affectionately
 Mrs A Stephens J. Blinley
 1851

1851

20 Page
was called by ~~him~~ as houses of orpation

Now My Bro. as you have noticed in your paper that I amasperamented ~~that~~ if you will consent tell the whole story. Though your paper and let my old and true friends and brethren in the membership and Ministry ^{East & West} may ~~and~~ ^{be} given to the portion now occupy it is to me almost painful task and so far as I am concerned I would decline saying any thing; but the ~~the~~ Trustees of the Church and the feelings of my friends are concerned both for it as you have opened your columns ~~for me~~ and others I hope you will at least permit me to give the history, and the documents from the beginning to the end. I shall be very particular only to state such things as will be proven without such needless controversy. Both in reference to facts & circumstances; and in closing up this letter I suffer me to say that the 10 day of last August about 9 AM in the morning in the State of Tennessee I was born of the spent 50 years & ago; (or in 1851) I have been traveling as an itinerant 48 years the 1st day of next May I have labored from the fall of 18 to 28 as Super-
intendent of the Indian Mission; six years of that time I lived with them, and took of their food eating sleeping in their wigwags and in the woods often between a hollow tree and an Indian Mother; on my back my Bark or on a Bear or Buffalo skin