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James B. Finley Letters

6-8-1852

Letter from D.H. Sargent to James B. Finley

D.H. Sargent

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Franklin Warren, Esq.
June 8th 1852.

Rev. J. K. Simley,
Dear Father.

For some time I have been trying to get to see you, & fearing I may not be able to meet with you soon, I embrace the present opportunity of writing you a line. I have more especially desired to see you since we met at Dayton, during the winter; to explain my position, on that occasion, which I feared you did not understand; & might have caused you to suppose I had receded from my former position, & abandoned my old friends. I have from the beginning of this unfortunate controversy, on the New Question, been with the minority, & regretted that my age, in the Conference, excluded me from giving my views only in a private way; & then necessarily with some reserve; as it is regarded fastidious, & a mark of being, in a young man, to express his views, decidedly, on any question of importance; & if he should overleap these bounds in simply voting his sentiments, if he differs from a majority, he is apt to be remembered in a way of distinction not the most desirable.

I was sorry that I could not vote with the majority at the Convention at Dayton. My dissent was not from the principal involved, but from some things introduced

in connection with the main question at issue
& were made apart & parcel of the main question.

It is not necessary for me to point out these items
at this time, since we have gained all in the
general Con., we desired or asked for.

But for a wrong apprehension I should not have
withdrawn from the convention; as I have learned
since that I had some wrong views of some of the
proceedings. It was not, therefore, an abandonment of
principle that caused me to withdraw from the conven-
tion, but some matters in connection with it, & a mis-
understanding. I am a young man & desire to be found
occupying a correct position in all things. I hope that
the minority of this conference will see the day when
their position will be vindicated by the church.
The right of a majority of the society to govern the
seating the congregation & the singing &c.

I am one that has voted with you & expect to
remain on that side of the question.

Can't you come & spend the first Sab. of July, with
us in Franklin. the 4th of July - or if you can't do
that Can't you be at Middletown the 11th of July or
at Mansfield the last Sab. of this month (Sunday
the 27th inst.?) If you can please let me know as
soon as you receive this.

Yours in Gospel of Christ.
D. S. Sargent.

1858
Mrs D. S. Sargent