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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

6-28-1852

Letter from James B. Finley to Jacob Young

James B. Finley

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I will do all I can to accomplish the object; that shall
Honorable to the man I most respected of all men that lived
except my own Father; you will please to write to
Some of the People at Exophill and let them know
the wishes of the General Conference or get Cartwright
to do so. If their consent can be obtained then let
us meet and fix on a plan to opposite day at Xenia
on the 22 of Sept next; I do not know Cartwrights
address or I would willingly write to him.

I have taken the liberty to write to you how I feel
and the situation in which I, and my friends feel that
the Conference has placed me; and I assure you so far
as I have heard the expression of Members and Ministers
both in our Conference & others except a few they have
kept no lawrels by it; and while I live a religious
and upright life; all the Conference cannot blot out
my name ^{out} in Ohio; which they have tried to do
Even to changing the name of Sandy Shoppelt in
Dayton; this I have no doubt was done by Foreign
Secret influence; I hope yet to live and sing high
up in heaven; will you pray that your old colleague
in the Kingdom of God; May be enabled
to go to live in the midst of his living ones; as it best
to meet you in heaven; May the blessing of God
rest upon you & yours is still the pray of your
Humble servant in tribulation

Rev Jacob Young

J B Miller

My love to my old friend & Mr & Mrs Young
and wife

Eaton June 28 1852

Rev Jacob Young Dear Sir I received yours of
June the 16 in reference to perpetuating the Memory
of the lamented and ~~deceased~~ Venerable McKendree
and then never lived a man in the Methodist Church
whose virtues it more richly; But will the South
allow us to do this; I doubt it - they will think no doubt
but it will ^{be} an encroachment on them; If they will
allow us to do this work I will most cordially do all that
my downy modern State in the Church will allow me to
do; But I feel after the abuse I have received and the
unflattering representation of Mr Moody & Company that I now
have no post or lot in my once beloved Zion; and am
trying daily to prepare to die and meet my
fellow laborers that that have gone to heaven; then
I hope to be one of the host of those who have
labored to bring my gray horses to the ground with
sorrow; I have my friends in the membership of the
Church who sympathize with me and some that
will cherish my memory when gone; If you
and Dr Cartwright will accept of my poor labor in
this work; I will do all I can by contributing myself
and will solicit the aid of my personal friends;
I now hold no office in the Church but what the venerable
abney & McKendree conferred on me; I was as trustee
in the Delaware university and this I intend to

Resigne I have not made up my mind yet; but think
now I never will attend an other Conference I can not associate with
Men, that have no confidence in me; and whose Character now
stands as Mr Moody represented me at the Conference at
Chillicothe as a dying Prophet, as Simon the Great Pretor.
in the history of the world; as a Deceptive Snake of
Satan in the desert; and as Drunken & so on.
all this was heaped on me & not a man told him
to order But it seemed to me that the old men of
the Conference helped him on; at Springfield where I
would have made an explanation; the third Method
Mood that all my Defence against this falsehood and
Slander; should be stricken out of the report of the
Meeting; which was passed & cleared with great glory
and that while a part of it was in type; and he took
the paper from the table; all these vile persecutions have
+ of a difference of opinion; about one rule in the Discipline
but I have appealed my case to a higher Tribunal
than let it rest. until the Court of appeals shall sit
and God will do me Justice; My old Friend I
claim to be as good and as true hearted Mr Robert
Preacher as yourself Moody, Trimble, Walker or any
other man and that I am as much opposed to the Purging
of Methodist Churches as any of you But I foresee where
this violence would terminate and you must see it
now your self; it has taken away every thing that
stood in the way of preventing family sitting or
Pews now they will go ahead without the solemn

Advice of the General Conference; which if it had been
left in the Discipline would have prevented the great meeting
only keep up this fire and you will soon split the
Church in to fragments; one of those Letters which
took to preach a fine Discourse the other Sabbath in a
Methodist Congregation against the family sittings and
pews where I had never been admitted before; and it
divided the society the poor parents, and now the Majority
are decidedly against the old plan of men & women
sitting apart; and Dr Estlin in his Editorial has
broken the ground; on that subject and I have not
heard one man speak of it but disapproves it; and
thinks I will keep the flame burning;
for all this I feel sorry to see Brethren who ought to
be doing the work of God and promoting peace and
harmony amongst his children throwing discord
and bad feeling every where; I can suffer wrong.
but I can not wrong to do it; If young men will
destroy the peace of Zion; they must be responsible
but my soul shall not come into their secret.
If the matter about which you write is undertaken
I think the first thing to be done will be for you
Eastworth to write to some of the most prominent Preachers
in the Nashville Conference and see whether they will
concur and then we must have some arrangement to
make to collect the money; and when that is done the
plan of the movement then the artist to build
it when these points are fixed then I will