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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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1-17-1853

## Letter from John S. (J.S.) Inskip to James B. Finley

John S. (J.S.) Inskip

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### Recommended Citation

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Should you see my father - please say we are all  
well - and are getting along nicely - May God bless all of the sickle.  
And convince the "hunks" of the "error of their way" - and lead them into the  
paths of "truth and righteousness" - Amen - When you write direct as  
I have dated my letter

89 Madison St. New York Jan. 17, 1853

My Worthy Old Friend

Your kind favor came duly to hand -  
and right glad we were to hear from you. We were the more  
gratified from the fact that you did not wait for us to write to  
you. Three days ago, as my wife and I were sitting ~~together~~  
and conversing together, the "Old chief" was named, and I said  
in reply to her remark about you - "well I'll write to uncle  
"Jim Finley" next week if I live". You may be assured when  
I went to the Book Room this morning, and found your  
letter, I was both surprised and delighted. Upon further  
reflection I believe ~~however~~, you are in my debt - perhaps now  
however, we are square. At any rate we will so understand it.  
Hereafter we will keep so. For every letter you write to me -  
(and I hope you will write a good many) you shall by  
the permission of Providence, receive a prompt reply.

The affair about Davis and Morrow &c. is about as  
I feared it would be. I have always endeavored to cherish  
the hope that the conduct of these Brethren might be satisfactorily  
explained. Yet at the same time, I have feared there was  
a serious wrong among them. I am now fully persuaded a  
large majority of those on the ticket participated in the  
original movement - and despite all their assertions to the  
contrary, knew all about the matter. I am sorry to be



compelled to such a conclusion in regard to Methodist preachers. But I cannot avoid it. I am fearful there is a sad and overwhelming development yet to be made. The truth is these men are wrong - radically wrong. It will only make the wrong worse ~~by~~ for them to deny or endeavor to conceal it. My own opinion is they ought to confess their sin and pray for forgiveness. I mean of course they should confess and pray to God. So far as I am concerned, they have been forgiven long since. I begin now to feel under serious obligations to them, for the great service they have done me. It might have been unintentional on their part. But it is not the less valuable to me. Whatever may have been their design, the result is entirely satisfactory to me and mine. I have been forced into a position, which but for the "majority" of the Ohio Conference, I never would have gained.

Since we came to this city, the Lord has favored us with great success. Our congregations have been more than doubled. The increase in spirituality, has been as great as in numbers. I never enjoyed myself as well in preaching &c. I believe in every instance in which I have attempted to preach, I have had a "clean sweep" - a "glorious time". One hundred and eleven have been converted and added to the church as probationers. About four fifths of these are heads of families - and most of them promise much usefulness to the church. Many of them are men of considerable wealth and influence. To God be all the glory.

In regard to a place for the "Old Chief" to camp at next spring - It will be provided. A spot will be selected near a cool running stream of good water - and in the vicinity

of as good hunting ground as you have seen since the wild turkeys and haw berries disappeared from Ohio. If you call upon your arrival in Gotham at 89 Madison St. you will find your "camp" - You must consider yourself the guest of J. S. Inskip and the Madison St. brethren. You shall to use no figure be provided with "good quarters" - Let me know a few days before you start - and I will have every thing ready. Of course we shall understand you are engaged to preach for us first and most of all others -

I hope you and Stickland will make a good book. You must bring some on with you. No doubt some could be sold here. Put plenty "Indians" - "Corns" - "Possums" - "Cabin" - "Camp Meetings" - "Revivals" &c &c in it. If you make a good selection ~~from~~ your great fund of anecdotes &c. you will have one of the most popular books that has emanated from the press for many years. It may be a book "as is a book".

We are all well - never had better health. Hope you are enjoying the same blessing. We were much gratified to hear of your success. It is really remarkable and should be a source of gratitude to God both to you and your friends - I ought to have paid the "prescriptive" policy of the "majority", by all the preachers and people in this region, is greeted with pity or disgust. The name of Moody is odious - as well as notorious. His sermon in one of our churches - preached as he was on his way to Boston - gave general offense - I have been told quite a number of the leading men arose and left the congregation before he finished. I would not have his reputation for the world. Write soon. Remember us to Stickland and the others - also your family

Yours affectionately J. S. Inskip