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James B. Finley Letters

2-12-1853

Letter from R. Anderson to James B. Finley

R. Anderson

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Recommended Citation

Anderson, R., "Letter from R. Anderson to James B. Finley" (1853). *Finley Letters*. 687.
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1838
Mission House May 21st 1838

Brother Fairly, From Circumstances not under my Control I have delayed answering your letter till now, my wife has been sick & Bro. Mononue has been very sick. They however are better for which we thank the Lord. his lungs is so affected that it was with difficulty he could talk, however he gave me the out lines of his experience. viz. while you was missionary here, he became convinced he was not right, & gave you his hand to join the Church, after which he went about holding prayer meetings exhorting & trying to do good. for some time perhaps one or two years the exact time he does not remember, however at a certain time coming from holding meeting at the Big Springs he stopped at netty Wrights prayer with the family, got on to his horse, & rode on under deep concern of mind, praying as he rode, all most in dispair, & all at once found his horse under full speed. he held up, & soon found as before his horse running. he then threw him self from the horse & neeled down by the root of a tree, & there ^{remained} ~~remained~~ with the God in prayer, till he felt. (to use his own language) like a creature that ~~had~~ had been killed with the trunk of its body full of blood. at length the skin changed, & he felt like the above creature would look when the butcher would take a Clean Cloth, & wipe it all Clean. he thanked God that he had wiped his hart Clean from all sin. & from that time to the present has been striving to do all he can to do & get good, he was very glad to hear from you. & says every he prays for you & expects to

James D. Fairly
Pudgerville Warren Co
Ind

May 22nd 1838

John Allen
Mission House
1838

Meet you in heaven, he is willing to suffer. to live or die. the Lords will be done Amen.

Bro. Shaw returned to me about 100 in the Church — This is now about 165 or 70 in Society to the Lord be all the glory. the greatest part of the members appear to be stable minded. we have good meetings our love feasts & Class meeting are warm & lively our Schools are from 15 to 40 scholars —

I found the farm very much out of repair. very little grain raised last year. we have received Bro. Shaws lease. & they are all gone from the mission. we have rented the farm for 3 years to Bro. Leonard Smelt but have made our bargain so that the Teacher & Boyes are occasionally to work on the farm. mean time the Girls will be improved in the house. Sister Summa davat died happy very happy.

O Bro. Finck, when I was appointed to this mission how I felt. I can not describe. but when I arrived here, I felt worse. the friend that live hear say that their never was a missionary since you left. that come here under as gloomy circumstances as what I did. but I took shelter under the precious promises of the God of missions. preached & prayed on till the Lord answered prayer poured out his spirit, & revived his work. & it is still increasing. glory to his Holy name. forever. I pray for us. that it may continue till the whole nation is converted to God Amen

At our 2^d L. M. mourners were invited the altar was soon crowded 3 or 4 deep among the rest an old lady some sixty or 70 years old. by the name of Bull head. she had stouted it out through all the reffermentation for years. holding fast to Paganism. but the Lord broke the snare & we trust converted his soul. — She belonged to the Devils Strongest party. associated with Gen. Washingtons party. & was very intemperate & wicked. Some time after her conversion old lady Washington. concluded to visit her neighbour Bull head, to see if this new Religion was good for anything. & she found Mother Bull heads house cleared, his bed & bedding neat, his wearing clothes clean & neat. no whiskey before. she was cheered with consternation. she returned home, & sayd there was something in the new Religion. sayd she must have it. — on the hole there appears to be a waking up through the nation. O. that God would once more travel in the greatness of his strength & bring all these children of the forest to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. & let all the people say Amen.

I should be glad if you could visit us this summer or fall our 4th L. M. is to be held in a camp meeting capacity. to commence 3^d of Aug. if you can not come before please come then. your old Brethren as well as myself would rejoice to see you hear at that or any other time. My love to your family as ever yours
S. M. Allen
Rev. J. B. Finck