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James B. Finley Letters

10-5-1826

Letter from Thomas Mason to James B. Finley

Thomas Mason

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Rev. James B. Finley
Upper Sandusky

Favoured by
Bro. Walker

Ohio

Thomas Mason

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Wm. Hall

My dear Brother,

New York Oct 5. 1826

I recd your favour by brother Walker this morning. Brother Walker took the boat at Albany in the afternoon, passed Newburgh after midnight, and therefore did not call. I should have come down with him had he called, but I do not know that I could have rendered him any essential service as I am inclined to believe that Brother Disposway has acted the part of a friend towards him, and Bro. Hall is attentive to him. I am pleased with Bro. W. and regret that he could not have been with you and the chiefs. The friends of the Mission here, approve of the wisdom of the chiefs in establishing a store for the benefit of the Nation; my only solicitude is about its being, faithfully and prudently conducted. The accounts should be faithfully kept - all receipts and all disbursements; that on examination a satisfactory account may be given of all monies and property belonging to the establishment. An individual may, if he pleases, be negligent in keeping a faithful record of the transactions of his business (but this is neither wise or safe) but it will not do in a joint-concern where so many are ~~at stake~~ ^{interested} and the character of a whole Nation is at stake. I hope you will be able to make a fair start in this business and proceed without embarrassment. I am glad you were able to visit Alexandria & Washington. I fear your time would be too short. Your visit to Newburgh excited an interest in the missionary cause and I seized upon the favourable moment and organized a Missy Society - We had between 40 & 50 subscribers the first evening we met, and I think we shall raise to a hundred or more before the year closes. I am fully persuaded that it is absolutely necessary for the interest of our Gent. Missy Society, that there should be a cor. Secy who should devote his time to obtaining and diffusing Missy intelligence, and use his

excursions to promote the establishment of auxiliaries. Whether the managers will appoint such an one I cannot tell. If they want any pr. not in the City they must negotiate with the Bp. or P. Elder for him. I showed your letter to Bro. Dando, & Bro. Hall will probably communicate what you have written to him on the subject to the Board. I rejoice to hear that you had so blessed a camp meeting - may the work still go on and prosper - We have had some good C. M. also in this region - the One at Croton sat under which was very good - my own soul enjoyed much comfort - another the week after across the River from Newburgh about 9 miles - It was a new place for a C. M. the order was not so good as I have been, but upon the whole it was a good meeting and suppose 30 or 40 souls were converted - The Lord has begun to work among us in Newburgh - several have lately got converted and joined Society and others are under awakenings - pray for us that the Spirit may be poured out upon us in abundance.

The brethren are generally in health - although there has been considerable sickness and some deaths in the Village the past summer. Bro. Goodell has taken to himself a wife since you saw him - One which I think will do him good and not harm.

Bro. Dando has been writing to London to a friend and has suggested to him whether some body there could not or would not give a set of the English Meth. Magazine for the Wyandott Library - and I think it not unlikely that some books may be sent to him for you. He requested me to say to you that if you would form a Library Society, and become incorporated, in that case whatever books might be sent would be

free of duty - You can use your discretion about that. I think it important to promote the comforts of civilized life among the nation, that the mechanic arts should be introduced as early as possible - Blacksmiths, Carpenters, Shoemakers, ^{Weavers} Tailors, Hatters &c. - and therefore men should be hired to come into the nation and teach the young men, or some of the young men should be placed with proper persons to learn their trades with the Whites and then return to the nation to teach others. The former perhaps would be the better plan. And you will not forget the Lancasterian System of instruction. My health has been generally good since I saw you - I am now however hoarse and somewhat oppressed at my lungs in consequence of a little too much labour & cold.

Mrs. Mason and the children are well - She is with me in the City and joins in love to you & Sister Emily - Please remember us affectionately to brothers Betwixt the logs Monocue - if we see them no more on Earth we hope to meet them, and many others of our dear Sisters in Heaven.

Your affectionate brother
Thomas Mason

P.S. I am desirous of seeing the "Pilgrim Songster" - when you procure One if you have not an immediate private conveyance, tear off the lids and wrap it securely in strong paper, and mark on the outside the number of sheets of printing paper which it contains, and direct it to me at Newburgh by mail. If it is the size of our common Hymn book, then there is 48 pages on a sheet - if the size of Lions Songster 36 - if the size of Fletcher's appeal 24 - by this you can ascertain the number of sheets & also whether you will take part in an edition & what number. T.M.