

Ohio Wesleyan University

Digital Commons @ OWU

Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

2-20-1823

Letter from Alfred Brunson to James B. Finley

Alfred Brunson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters>

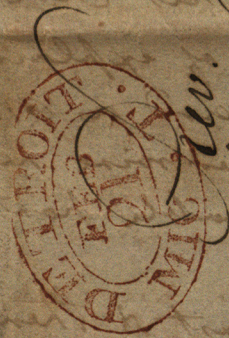
Recommended Citation

Brunson, Alfred, "Letter from Alfred Brunson to James B. Finley" (1823). *Finley Letters*. 714.
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters/714>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.

We are in want of Hymn Books; there ^{are} some books here
belonging to B. Case but no Hymn Books. He has left a box
with us to sell until you can supply us. I have many things
to write but time & paper grows short. Give my love to Dr
Oliver & wife, Sister Dinley, & young & all the Preachers -
Rev. J. B. Dinley I am &c Alfred Brimston

Alfred
Brimston
Feb 21
1823



19 1/2
Rev. James B. Dinley
Upper Sandusky
Ohio

My wife wishes to send her love to you &
ask you to send her a book & a box of soap

Detroit Feb. 20th 1823

Dear Brother, I have the pleasure of acknowledging the re-
-ceipt of yours of the 20th Jan. a few days since. It was a welco-
-me ^{message to me} in this distant & lonesome land. I have been sick for
2 months and unable to ride, tho' I have made out to
preach every Sabbath but two, one of which was the day
we expected to be honored with your presence. But that wise
Providence that afflicted you, partially supplied our ^{wants} in the
presence of Dr. Petty from Canada. I have so far recovered,
that I can ride in a sleigh. And went in this manner to
the River Pearson last week to a two day meeting, and am
going this day to the River Raisin.

When I came here things looked very gloomy, so much so,
that my spirits sunk & my heart failed for the first time
in my life. But things have taken a more favourable
turn. We have added 19 to society in this city and as
in the rest of the circuit. We preach here every Sabbath
and the people have subscribed 180 Dollars for our support; &
quite liberal in their presents, considering that we have but
35 in society. We have 1000 Dollars subscribed to build
a meeting house, which we design to put up in the Spring or
Summer. But your presence is much needed, not ^{only} for the
help of the house, but for the society at large.

Our circuit is very large nearly 200 miles round & we have
to preach 26 times a round. But I have a worse difficulty to en-
-counter than the riding or preaching, tho' it is the hardest circuit
I ever rode. I feel some delicacies to mention it, from several
considerations. I always considered my colleague more intimate-
-ly connected with me than any other preacher, and resolved
never to say any thing to my P. B. about the little slips & foibles
of ^{his} life, at least, until I had tried to cure them my self, (as I wish
to be done by.) and I always calculate to bear with the in-
firmities of my colleague.

metics of them, as I wish them to do with me. But in my present circumstances perhaps I shall be justified in naming things to you that cannot be helped without your interposition. But I do not wish to lead you to any wrong impressions about Mr Baker, he is a pious, holy & zealous man. But he is not received as a preacher, no body doubts his sincerity, yet his manner of address is so displeasing that the people many of them refuse to hear him or pay their subscriptions; my situation under these circumstances you know must be trying; my feelings are deeply interested for him, as a man, a Christian, a minister & especially as a colleague. And ^{my} feelings are ^{also} interested for my self & family, I have 72 \$ sent to pay, & 30 or 40 for wood & 15 or 20 for horse feed, besides the other expenses of my family. And if I should not obtain a part at least of the subscription in this city, I ~~shall~~ end the year in debt; for we have but little prospects in the other parts of the circuit. He is aware of these things & feels wounded to the quick, as well as my self. And I ^{proposed} ~~proposed~~ to him to divide the circuit, (however not without your sanction) But your note to go Meeting left us still in suspense; he agreed to ~~go~~ ~~take~~ ~~the~~ ~~South~~ ~~end~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~circuit~~, till our two day meeting, when he informed me that, he was discouraged, for the people would not come much to meeting, & refused to pay any thing unless I came to that end of the circuit. we are now in this situation. he thinks it is because he is not a zealous man, but that is not the case, for no preacher was ever more popular in this city than your self, & they all know that you are not one. other preachers as Traylor & Strange were well received. The people are mostly well informed & enterprising, ~~set off~~ and having been raised in the land of steady habits, are favourable to methodism ^{only} from its superiority in doctrine & preaching; so if a Methodist preacher is inferior to a Presbyterian in point of Gallant, he will have but few to hear him & less to pay him, our church is not established here as it is in Ohio, where the majority are inward or outward count Methodist. so that if we do anything in this Territory, we must do it by the above mentioned means -

with the blessing of God. Perhaps if I tell you, that after making these remarks, that we are gaining more in popularity, grace & numbers than all other denominations, you will think that I am boasting, & the whole of this letter perhaps may have this appearance, (and this ^{was} one of the greatest objections I had in my mind to writing to you on the subject,) but in a point, of so much importance to me and my charge, I must lay aside all delicacies & speak the naked truth - another reason I have for wishing the circuit divided is, my family circumstances; my wife will be confined in 2 or 3 months, and she is so fearful of getting into debt, that she has taken Boarders & I know of no other way to support my family, & I don't know that I can do it that way. but this being the case my presence is much needed at home. however if you think it best, I ^{can} go round the whole circuit. But if it could be, I should be glad of a colleague who would be acceptable to the people. & I believe it would be agreeable to Mr Baker if you can get a proper person to fill his place, to make an exchange.

A Preacher to do good in this Territory, must be under stand our Doctrines & be capable of explaining and defending them in a pleasing & fluent manner, and as Methodists are scarce, he ought to know how to sing, & other wise he will have no singing, and this you know is a considerable part of worship among the eastern people.

This Territory is getting very fast, & there are but few preachers of any denomination in it; But as soon as the population increases so as to incourage the Presbyterian Preachers they will probably swarm in this country; it is important therefore to have Methodist established & to have it keep pace with the population.

Mr Case has been here & left a letter for you enclosed with this, and we have agreed to have a camp meeting on the 23^d of May on the River Road. We should be extremely glad to have your company together with Mr Young & other Preaching

Brunson_ab618

February 20, 1823 Detroit

Alfred Brunson

Dear Brother,

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of yours of the 20 Jan. a few days since. IT was a welcome message to me in this distant & lonesome land. I have been sick for 2 months and unable to ride, tho I have made out to preach every Sabath but two; one of which was the day we expected to honored with your presence. But that wise Providence that afflicted you, partially supplied our wants in the presence of Br. Petty from Canada. I have so far recovered, that I can ride in a sleigh. And went in this manner to the River Reason last week to a two day meeting and am going this day to the River Rouge [Rouge].

When I came here things looked very gloomy, so much so that my spirits sunk & my heart failed for the first time in my life. But things have taken a more favourable [turn] since. We have added 19 to Society in this city as _____ in the rest of the circuit. We preach here every Sabath and the people have subscribed 180 dollars for our support; & quite liberal in their presents, considering that we have but 38 in Society. We have 1000 dollars subscribed to build a meeting house, which we design to put up in the Spring or Summer. But your presence is much needed, not only for the help of the house, but for the Society at large.

Our circuit is very large nearly 400 miles round & we have to preach 26 times a round. But I have a worse difficulty to encounter than the riding or preaching, tho' it is the hardest circuit I ever rode. I feel some delicacies to mention it, from several considerations. I always considered my colleague more intimately connected with me than any other preacher, and resolved never to say anything to my P.E. about the little slips & foibles of his life, at least, untill I had tried to cure them my self, (& I wish so to be done by.) and I always calculate to bear with the infirmities of them, as I wish them to do with me. But in my present circumstances perhaps I shall be justified in naming things to you, that cannot be helped with out your interference. But I do not wish to lead you to any wrong impressions about Br. Baker. He is a pious, holy & zealous man. But he is not recieved as a preacher, no body doubts his sincerity, yet his manner of address is so displeasing that the people many of them refuse to hear him or pay their subscriptions; my situation under these circumstances you know must be trying; my feelings are deeply interested for him, as a man, a Christian, a minister & especially as a colleague. And my feelings are interested also for my self & family, I have 72 \$ rent to pay, & 30 or 40 for wood & 15 or 20 for horse feed, besides the other expences of my family. And if I should not obtain a part at least of the subscriptions in this city, I will end the year in debt; for we have but little prospects in the other parts of the circuit. He is aware of these things & feels wounded to the quick, as well as my self. And I proposed to him to divide the circuit, (however not without your sanction) but your not [coming] to qr meeting left us still in suspense; he agreed [when I] was sick, to take the south end of the circuit, till our two day meeting, when he informed me that he was discouraged, for the people would not come much to meeting, & refused to pay any thing unless I came to that end of the circuit. We are now in

this situation. He thinks it is because he is not a yankee, but that is not the case, for no preacher was ever more popular in this city than your self., & they all know that you are not one. Other preachers as Trader & Strange were well recieved , the people are mostly well informed & enterprising, and having been raised in the Land of Steady habit, are favourable to Methodism, and from its superiority in doctrine & preaching; so if a Methodist preacher is inferior to a Presbyterian in point of talent, he will have but few to hear him & less to pay him. Our church is not established here as it is in Ohio, where the majority are inward or outward count Methodist. So that if we do anything in this territory, we must do it by the above mentioned means- with the Blessing of God. Perhaps if I tell you, after making these remarks that we are gaining more in popularity, grace & numbers than all other denominations, you will think that I am Boasting & the whole of this letter perhaps may have this appearance, (and this was one of the greatest objections I had in my mind to writing to you on the subject,) but in a point of so much importance, to me and my charge, I must lay aside all delicacies & speak the naked truth- another reason I have for wishing the circuit divided is, my family circumstances; my wife will be confined in 2 or 3 months, and she is so fearful of getting into debt, that she has taken Boarders & I know of no other way to support my family, & I don't know that I can do it that way. But this being the case my presence is much needed at home. However, if you think it best, I can go round the whole circuit. But if it could be, I should be glad if a colleague who would be acceptable to the people, & I believe it would be agreeable to Br. Baker if you can get a proper person to fill his place, to make an exchange.

A preacher to do good in this Territory, must understand our doctrines & be capable of explaining and defending them in a pleasing & fluent manner, and as Methodists are scarce, he ought to know how to sing, other wise he will have no singing , and this you know is a considerable part of worship among the eastern people.

This territory is settling very fast, & there are but few preachers of any denomination in it; But as soon as the population increases so as to incourage the Presbyterian preachers they will probably swarm in this country; it is important therefore to have Methodism established & to have it keep pace with the population.

Br. Case has been here & left a letter for you enclosed with this, and we have agreed to have a camp meeting on the 23rd of May on the River Rouge [Rouge]. We should be extremely glad to have your company together with Br. Young & other preachers. We are in want of Hymn Books; there are some books here belonging to Br. Case but no Hymn Books. He has left a box with us to sell untill you can supply us. I have many things to write but time & paper grows short. Give me love to Br. Eliot & wife, Sister Finley, Br. Young & all the preachers-

Rev. J.B. Finley

Alfred Brunson

My wife wishes to send her love to you & sister Finley, to Br. & sister Eliot & to Br. Young