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James B. Finley Letters

6-11-1823

Letter from Alfred Brunson to James B. Finley

Alfred Brunson

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Rev. James D. Finley

Myandott Mission

Upper Sandusky Ohio



3 Letters
Alfred Brown

Detroit June 11th 1823

Dear Brother, I this day received your letter of the 4th
The perusal of which was attended with pleasure in general,
al, tho' some parts of it caused sensations of uneasiness -
I rejoice that the Lord has prospered his work in your
hands at that place & that you still think of visiting
this place - I read ^{a part of} your letter to some of the Brethren
whose drooping spirits seemed to cheer up considerably
when they heard that you still thought of coming here
your presence is much needed in this part of the world
on several accounts, such as, the meeting house, & the general
state of the country; If you was to see it you could judge
better of the state of our work, & the future prospect of
the country. I will speak to the gov. again about the
Sagana Indians, but if you could stay long enough in
the country to visit them, you could form a better judgment
of the probable success among them -

I have just received intelligence from Mackinaw &
Saut De St. Marie 400 Miles above this at ^{the} out let
Lake Superior - there is a society of 12 or 14 Methodist
in the army at that post who desire preaching, 4 of them
were converted at Sackett Harbor a year ago last winter
& were moved to this post last summer; & being destitute
of all other means of grace, they formed a class & have held
meetings ever since & god has blessed them & converted
10 or 12 through their means. There are about 500
souls at St. Marie & none to preach or teach a school
Serg. Ryan who was one of them, has lately been discharged
and was at my house on Monday last, & it done my very
soul good to hear him tell of the good meetings they had
had in that distant land. It fired me & my wife both
with a missionary spirit, & was it not for the size of my
family I would volunteer for some out post. Green
Bay and Mackinaw are in a similar situation, Green
Bay in particular, 500 or 1000 souls and little or no
instruction - There is a Methodist Local Preacher at
Mackinaw, but by what I can learn he is over run by
a young Presbyterian Preacher who is about to establish a
mission there -
But that part of your letter that gives me uneasiness is

What you say about a Misunderstanding between Br Baker & myself - This is the first that I know of it - If there is any thing in my letter leading to such an inference, it is not what I intended. & must be because I have not expressed my self sufficiently plain. All I intended to convey was that, the people, not myself, did not receive him so well as I could wish; & the trial I expressed to have on the account, was not that I was tried with him but for him. That is, I was hurt for his sake; & was sensible that if things continued as they were he could not travel with useful help to himself or the people. We talked freely on the subject, & as I supposed, with good understanding. And when I wrote to you first, it was immediately after a conversation with him on the subject, from which I concluded that an exchange would be more agreeable to him than to continue as he was, not on my account, but on account of his own and the people's feelings.

If Br Baker has written any thing to you from which you infer a Misunderstanding, it is unknown to me, & contrary to his appearance & conduct to me. The only thing that I know of, with which he can be tried, is my staying in Detroit; & the only reason I have for it my ill health & that of my family. If he had have been in town himself, I could not possibly have traveled round the circuit since the first of January. I know he has got discouraged, tho he is much better received now than in the first of year, & talks of leaving the circuit in a few weeks, but I presume if you are like to be here, that he will not go.

It appears to me, that we both, some how or another, have expressed our selves differently from what we meant to; for I certainly feel no hand up at brother Baker & no not that he has any with me. I esteem him as a pious faithful man & minister, & his knowledge of Divinity is good, but his manner of address & Southern dialect is all that people had against him. But as they become more acquainted with him, they feel more for him in his trials & like him better as a preacher. This is the reason why I said in my last, that I was sorry I had written what I did on the subject, lest it should make an unfavourable impression on your mind.

As to Br. Kent I agreed to drop the matter for peace sake, but I repented it after he was gone & so did Br

Baker, he cleared himself some how or another from the first charge, but not from the two others, in my opinion. but I was sick & unable to go out of town to the witnesses with him so that he took the advantage of my absence & Br Baker too, & got a release from the girl & her parents very contrary to what they told me before; ~~But~~ the breach is not healed in the public mind, tho he patched it considerable; But as I have agreed to drop it, I shall say no more about it, unless over ruled by my Superiors; when you come you may do as you please - I have tried every way to reconcile my feelings to his conduct but have not been able as yet. And his conduct while here on this business was not such I could wish - however If you come, you can judge better, than from what I can say in a letter -

If you come soon, ~~without give~~ that is, if your business will suit, so as to come before you can give me notice, a few days will notify all the people that will probably attend a gr meeting now. in winter the people would have come from a distance -

I have not been able to preach since my last, but if I have no pull back I shall try next Sabbath -

If it would suit you & my health will admit I should like visit Canada with you -

If you do not come I wish you would be so good as to write what to do with Br Patter - there is another Local Elder expected here every day from the State of N. York by the name of Weeks who will settle 30 or 40 Miles toward Niagara.

The weather has been very wet & cold this spring, but for a week or ten day it has been dry ^{but} & rather cool. Give our respect to Sister Gaily & Br & Sister Eliott - I am like to come out 120 or 30 Dollars in debt this year & this is one reason why I wish you to come on, that I may have your council or assistance some how to get a way from here at the end of the year. There is nearly enough due on the Subscription paper to pay it, but I fear it will not be collected.

I remain affectionately yours Alfred Morrison