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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

1841

Letter from James B. Finley to David Whitcombe

James B. Finley

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German town Feb 8th 1841

Dear Bro perhaps is necessary for me to make some
apology for my sudden departure from Dayton
but such was the wounded state of my feelings that I
thought it best I had not the least intimation of your
having joined the Masons until Sabbath after sermon and
the news came on me like a clap of thunder and now
you have joined, and sworn to be a Mason I do not
know that it would be worth while to say anything
to you on the subject. But you have inflicted a wound
on many of your own charge and the purist part
of God's heritage you have been set by the Holy Ghost
as an over-seer of the morals of God's people and if any of
them should stray through a sinful curiosity to a circus
a theater or a ball room yours is the duty to reprove
and reclaim them but there is the truth, many men
that would not much better be found in any of them
than in a Mason Lodge strait blindfolded with a hot
brand on their neck and ^{for} pointed at their breast and
the profane oath to have his thought cut from
ear to ear &c and to see an Ambassador of Jesus
Christ one who professes to be sent by Christ and to
stand in his place dead about in this manner by
the neck by McQuene Ochley or Men of this stamp
I tell it not in Geth nor publish it in the streets
of Dayton and then to think you or any Chris-
tian Minister should go crying I am in search of light
when you have Christ the Holy Spirit and word the
true light to enlighten to go to a Mason Lodge
asking after light is too silly and contemptible
your curiosity might have been gratified if you
had taken pains to have read Morgan's book and
Allen's Mutual John Linnings Adams letters and
the testimony of 250 Masons who all renounced
it as a rotten and dangerous to our civil insti-
tutions but I fear the secret lies in the desire of
Masonic influence and an honor that comes from
men and not from God

Copy of letter
to Mr
David Whitcomb
1841
after he had joined
the Masons

Can you now say follow me as I follow the Masons
will not your Example and Influence be the Means
of leading many a wicked Brother in to the Society of these
wicked men and put them under their Influence to the
Injury of their Souls Can you now say to them Come
out from amongst the wicked when you have sworn
aliance to them Can you now Expell a Brother from
the Church for attending balls and Theaters and Circuses
and heresever any of Whitch are Much Preferable
to the Secrete abominations of a Lodge.

O My Dear Mr I pray to God that you may
yet see the grote evils of this abominable flumary
Its pretensions to antiquity and the Incorporating
of Jesus Christ and his apostles as its votaries is
Sacrilege and the Constant prostitution of Gods Holy
word and Religion; as a covering for all its Depressments
is enough to make a Devil quake I speak what I
know and what the world knows it is true that
since Morgans and the development of it by others their
has been some alterations of it Signs but it is the
same thing and it is so attested as to be made
Incontestable and its flumary is not its grote
evil but it is a secretly Malicious and a persecutor
of all who do not shake well of it and stroke its head
It may well be call'd the History of Iniquity &
It is always working evil to others but good to its
Self and no man that follows its orders can do
Justice to any man or citizen when the dispute
is with a mason if he does not perjure himself
he is bound to favor a Brother Mason See the votes
you cannot but recollect the compromise made at Hullcote
on the Subject of Masonry and the Resolution that no mem-
ber of the Conference could Join them without censure
I cannot but Expect now you & Mr Wambaugh has
yielded yourselves to be the Instruments of this

but you will Influence others for men always wont com-
pany to Justice themselves but I hope you will not

backseed It needs some men of Moral Character to keep
it up and it gives Influence to the worst men without
Whitch they would go down in Society how would

My dear Sir if it was not for this prop and you
have sent him the Moral influence the Church
gave you to keep up him and his abominable
System I learned that him & the Revd A. W. Thott
walked the Streets linked arm in arm and were
Most abominable men In Dayton carried the holy
Bible after them this is fine Society for the
Holy and Sanctified ones of the Alter

My Dear you would no more have taken this step
after God converted your soul then you would
have sworn an oath or got drunk but all
for your Sinfull Curiosity and Love of Masonic
honour - Dear Mr you & I must soon appear at
Gods bar to give an account of all the deeds done in
the body and then it will be seen whether you
acted under the influence of the holy Spirit with
an eye single to Gods glory I expect as long as I live
in the world to be secretly persecuted by your Brethren
and all that hate & shake against this kind of darkness
and of course from you as well as all the rest
but I am determined to cast my care on Christ
and trust him to the End and not Masons nor
Masonry. I will close this Plain Letter by
saying I hope none of Gods flock may follow
your Example

Yours

I am as ever your Friend

David Whitcomb

J. B. Finley

Finley_ab627

Germantown

Feb 8th 1841

Dier Br

Perhaps is necessary for me to make some appology for my sudden departure from Dayton but sutch was the wounded state of my feelings that I thought it best. I had not the least intimation of your having join'd the Masons untill Sabath after Sermon and the news came on me like a clap of thunder and now you have joined, and sworn to be a Mason I do not know that it would be worth while to say anything to you on the subject. But you have inflicted a wound on many of your own charge and the purist part of God's Heratage. You have been set by the Holy Ghost as an overseer of the Morrals of God's People and if any of them should stray through a sinfull curiosity to a circus or theater or a ball room, yours is the Duty to rescue and reclaim them. But where is the truly pious man that would not much rather be found in any of them then in a Mason Lodge. ____ blindfolded with a _____ round his neck and sword pointed at his breast and the profaine oath to have his thought but from ear to ear and to see an embassador of Jesus Christ one who professes to be sent by Christ and to stand in his place lead about in this manner by the neck by McQuene Ockley or men of this stamp. O tell it not in Goth nor publish it in the streets of Dayton and then to think of you or any Christian minister should go crying I am in search of Light when you have Christ the Holy Spirit and word the true light to enlighten. To go to a Mason Lodge asking after light is too silly and contemptable. Your curiosity might have been gratified if you had taken pains to have read Morgan's books and Allyn's Ritual, John Quincy Adam's letters and the testimony of 250 Masons who all renounced it as rotten and dangerous to our Civil Institutions. But I fear the secret lies in the Desire of Masonic Influnce and an honner that comes from men and not from God.

Can you now say follow me as I follow the Masons. Will not your example and influence be the means of leading many a weak brother in to the Society of these wicked men and put them under their Influnce to the injury of their soules. Can you now say to them Come out from amongst the wicked when you have swoarn alegance to them. Can you now expel a brother from the church for attending balls and theaters and circuses and horse races any of whitch are much preferable to the secret abominations of a Lodge.

O My Dier Br I pray to God that you may yet see the grate evils of this abominoble flumary. Its pretentions to antiquity and the encorporating of Jesus Christ and his appostles as its _____ is Sacriledge and the Constant prostitution of Gods Holy Word and Religion; as a covering for all its _____ is enough to make a Devel quake. I speak what I know and what the world knows. It is true that since Morgans and the development of it by others, there has been some alterations of its ____ but it is the same thing and it is so attested as to be made incontestable and its flummary is not its gratest evill but it is secretly malitious and a persecution of all who do not speak well of it and _____. As near it may It may well be called the _____ of iniquity and that it allways working evill to others but good to its self and no man that swallows its oaths can do justice to any man or citizen when the dispute is with a Mason if he does not perjure himself. He is bound to favor a Brother Mason. See the oaths. You cannot but recollect the compromise made at Chillicothe on the subject of Masonry and the Resolution that no member of the Conference could join them without censure. I

cannot but expect now you and Br. Wambaugh has yealded yourselves to be the instrements of this _____. But you will influence others for men allways want company to justify themselves but I hope you will not suckseed. It needs some men of moral carructer to _____ it up and it gives influence to the worst of men without whitch they would go down in Society. How would Mq_____ live if it was not for this _____ and you have lent him the moral infuance the Church gave you to keep up him and his abominoble system. I learned that him & the Rev. ___ Elliot walked the streets linked arm in arm and the most abominoble man in Dayton carried the holy bible after them. This is fine Society for the Holy and Sanctifyed ones of the alter.

My Dier you would no more have taken this step after God converted your soule then you would have sworn an oath or got drunk but alas for your sinfull curiosity and Love of Masonic honor—Dier Br you must soon appear at God's _____ to give an account of all the deeds done in the body and then it will be seen wheather you acted under the influence of the holy spirit with an eye single to God's glory. I expect as long as I live in the world to be secretly persecuted by your brethren and all that hate & speak against this ____ of Darkness and of course from you as well as all the rest but I am determined to cast my care on Christ and trust him to the end and not Masons nor Masonry. I will close this plain letter by saying I hope none of God's flock may follow your example.

I am as ever your Friend

J.B. Finley

Revd David Whitcome