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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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12-28-1847

## Letter from E.H. Taylor to James B. Finley

E.H. Taylor

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Warwick  
Decr 29th

Rev J. B. Finley  
Columbus Ohio

And  
Edward Taylor  
Dec 1847

Dr Bro Finley there is an old friend of mine &  
the Methodist preacher in the town of Hopkinton  
he pleads if you would if convenient see him  
and in your list the names have he is  
his name is William Taylor or fine name

Warwick Decr, 28. 1847

Dear Bro Finley

Rev Sir it is many years since I had the  
pleasure of seeing you or as much as receiving a line from  
you I think of the days of other years when I was a  
boy when you traveled the circuit on which my father  
lived I think of Longs Meeting House where you gave  
me leave to preach the Gospel and of your call  
at my fathers a few weeks after and saying Edward  
you must meet me at the year meeting at Wrights Church  
on Mahoning Circuit and travel it with Davison and  
bro the that was a time of trial and I have often  
thought if I had not been better anchored than  
some of the boys we got those days I should have  
given the matter up but 30 years have passed away  
since that and I am still on the walls and on the  
way to heaven and I have passed through both  
the shades and lights of an itinerant life.  
We left the Ohio Conference the year the Pittsburg  
Conference was organized, but we have often wished  
we had stayed in the Ohio but now it is not  
worth while to talk I suppose of a transfer I am over  
fifty years of age my locks are becoming gray  
and my eyes dim I suppose you would not have  
me now - but I am traveling Warwick Circuit and  
you know it is the line circuit if your Conference  
should be decided next May perhaps you may ask  
and get this territory for I do think that you  
should have the territory back that was taken from  
the Ohio Conf, or give Marietta and Zanesville to

the Pittsburgh Confer it is very awkward as  
it now is and if you do decide you should  
have a piece of Territory on this side of the River  
or give up those Talens and I would just as  
have you would get a piece on this side - but  
how do you like to be where you have are  
I should think it to be unpleasant but you will  
say what difference does it make if a Man is  
discharging his duty and I should think it very behav-  
ious for you to travel there - and it is a little surprizing  
that my old friend Jacob Young is still Traveling  
a District - well what is to be done at the General  
Conference you will not be likely to divide the funds  
of the Church with the South and I suppose it should  
not be done but if it is not they will prosecute and  
in that event the will succeed. The General Conf.  
of 1844. should have expelled Bishop Andrew and  
have given no consent for the Division of the  
Church and if the Church in the South went it  
was wholly on their own responsibility -  
But these days we have Abolition and Proslavery  
and a host of other things and I think it is highly  
probable the Church will suffer less - There is  
Masonry and Sons of Temperance and many Methodists  
- Preachers are for most as Masons - Formerly when  
Masons got converted the cause to be adhering Masons  
but not so now Formerly the Church frowned the  
Annual Conference frowned you recollect how you  
scoured one or two of the young men at the Chillicothe  
Conf, at which I was ordained Deacon Dear fellows  
you showed them but little mercy but they were  
inexperienced and ignorant of the System of Masonry

Brother Finley have you any good sermons in Columbia

for had they known before that <sup>they would have</sup> ~~had~~ to pass through the barbarous Orgies of Masonry and  
swear the fearful Oaths the did they never see him  
Masons and Bishop Roberts said when he got  
beyond the Province of God then he would join the  
Masons Masonry is a Barbarous and Bloody System  
and all its Oaths are Profane and some of them  
are highly Blasphemous and have astonishing that  
a Methodist Preacher who ought to be the light  
of the world should present himself at the Door  
of a Free Mason Lodge with a Wool and Hood -  
Winked asking for light and of whom  
Judith's Drummers Behadues, Oh Shame Shame,  
I saw a letter lately published in the Masonic Review  
- written by N.H. Kaper professing to give the origin  
of Red Lights of the Cross - but Sir there was not  
a Knight nor a Mason on the face of the Earth  
ages after the period when he gives its origin  
and no Mason can trace from any authentic source  
the State Ments made by that Bro - and Sons  
are not a great deal better at least it is  
the same song but the tune is different. I hope  
Sir that as an old Methodist Preacher you will  
deprecate all these things and use your influence  
against these things likely to do us great harm  
It would be pleased to see you one more and Lydia  
wishes to hear from Mrs Finley and joins in love  
to you - Yours Respectfully

J. B. Wright immediately - My address Fenwick  
Muskingum Co  
Rev J. B. Finley E. H. Taylor