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James B. Finley Letters

12-21-1847

Letter from David Reed to James B. Finley

David Reed

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received Jan 4 1848
New
David Rice
Dec 1847



Rev. James B. Finley
Calumet
Ohio

662
Kanawha C.H. Dec. 21. 1847

Wm. James

Dear Sir, We intended writing before this, but have delayed until the present time. And I now have so many things in my mind about which I wish to write that I find it difficult to make a selection.

You have doubtless seen in the Appointment of the Preachers of the Kentucky Conference that they have organized two Districts in the Territory of the Kanawha Dis. So you see that I have two of the "Big Preachers" in the Church of Presiding Elders to contend with. But if they ever to send any preacher in the Kentucky Conference to this Dis. they will never be able to take this territory or to displace the Ohio preachers. You may think it strange that they should organize two Districts within the bounds of this Dis. Well I think that I can give you the Philosophy of it. In the first place they did not send the right kind of a man last year he was a weak brother. But they could not remove him, as he had been

here but are agreed with any kind of Grace.
And consequently they continued him an amicum
portant part of the Territory, continuing with
it the Original Name. "Snyandott Dis." and put
frames upon the more important part.
Calling it Packersburg. Dis. But another
reason is they wish to succeed in taking
the territory which they have invaded.

But another reason is that they & the South generally have more spirit at the Ohio Conference than at any Conference in the Union. This is in consequence of the resolutions they passed at Cincinnati disclaiming the "Plan" & nullity, and displacing Bishop Doane from the Chair of the Conf.

I have just finished my first round of quarterly meetings upon the Dis. They have all been pleasant and as prosperous as could be expected under the adverse circumstances. The preachers are all at their work, with the exception of Bro. Bonham whose health has failed, and his place has to be supplied. I think the Dis. is better supplied this year than it has been for years. And I doubt not but this year will tell favorably upon the interests of the Church in Ken. Dis.—

The most Discouraging Circumstance
which has taken place with us this
year was Bro. Phelps' angry letter. This
bitter Stream of mortified ambition
has thrown more incitement into
the Southern party in Dis. than any
thing which has occurred since I have
been here. And nothing could be
more mortifying to the Agents
of the N.E. Church in this Dis. The
Dom. Forum in the Ohio
Conference so far as the Agents
of the N.E. Dis. are concerned.

Hannah joins me in love
to you and the Family when you write
and go to see them. Quite soon.

Yours David Thoreau
Rev. James B. Finley