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James B. Finley Letters

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Letter from Samuel Baker to James B. Finley

Samuel Baker

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Mission House February 1st 1823

Dear Brother,

I came here hoping to meet with you, but was one day too late. It was a sad disappointment to us that you could not come to our Quarterly Meeting, Brother Brunson was Sick and not able to preach, and Brother Hecock was gone to Canada, but Brother Dettet came over, a Local Preacher who lives in Canada and assisted me, we had a gracious time, we also had a 2. meeting in the fall on the River Rough, which was attended with great good. The prospect in Detroit and on the River Rough is flattering but in general the circuit is in a low state, we have found some new settlements where the people are willing to hear the Gospel but we do not see much fruit of our labours yet Brother Brunson has been down to Meggs but once and twice up to Mount Clemmons on the Upper River Huron, I have been down to Meggs four times and up to Mount Clemmons twice, I do not think he intends to go to Meggs any more, he has proposed to divide the circuit, he wishes to take Detroit five appointments above Detroit and the River Rough, and wishes me to take the the Miami the River Reason and the lower River Huron but on the Miami the Presbyterians have got the ground

J. Baker
Feb. 1823

Baker

Rev. James B. Finley
Indian Mission

Ohio

likewise on the River Reason the principal
Citizens are Presbyterians and on the River
Huron we have but five Members. Mr. Tate
the superintendent of the Miami Mission
has supplanted me in my appointments for three
Sabbaths in succession a week ago last Sabbath
I had an appointment in the Court House at
the River Reason and he came on Saturday evening
and sent around word that he would preach on
Sunday in the Court house at the same hour
of my appointment, I give way to him and when
he concluded he made another appointment for
evening and likewise appointed a sacramental
meeting in two weeks which was the time
of my next appointment, he then followed
me to the Miami where I had an appointme-
nt last Sabbath ^{and} sent word around that
he would preach at the same hour of my
appointment again, but I was determined
to preach if I could get hearers, and to
my astonishment I had nearly all the Pres-
byterians in the place. I do not think I shall consent
to the division of the Circuit unless you direct
me so to do. you must know that the River
Rough is ~~the~~ and Detroit is the cream of
this ~~Circuit~~ Circuit. if you can
come do write to me and let me know
what to do. there is no proper order here
what Br. Brunson has Received I know
nothing about I have not Received my traveling
expenses, and do not think I shall

our next 2. meeting will commence this day
two weeks on the River Reason. Br Brunson
talks of having a camp meeting in the
month of May on the River Rough,
no more at present, yours in
the Gospel of Christ

Samuel Baker

Rev.

J. B. Finley