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James B. Finley Letters

4-25-1823

Letter from James Tawler to James B. Finley

James Tawler

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Recd 0
Apr 29

12 1/2

Rev James B. Findley
Upper Sandusky

John
May 1823

678

83. John Findley. I have when I am with him but observed the old native with the same heart to the charge of the people but I was not from his door.

April 25. 1823. Green Bay at home
Dear brother your favor dated 23rd ultimo was not recd until yesterday. I had been looking three, four or five weeks for an answer to a letter wrote you, some time since, but ~~before~~ I had not recd it when you wrote yours of the 23rd.
I find from your letter the mission stands on a pivot and I have long thought its the intention of our church in the west on whom we have depend for its support either to keep it there or knock it over if possible, (a few exceptions only).
Man is fond of popularity my dear brother I wish us its an unpopular thing to press for money or property on any occasion. Mention Mission and the dogs of avarice roar like bull dogs at an intruding villian on their masters treasures. Whole congregations of avaricious gentlemen & ladies it is said are grossly insulted when called upon to assist in Indian reform. I have heard my brother since conference resolved to establish a school at Sandusky for the benefit of the Indian youth what I never expected to learn. In my efforts I expect to find myself in the church, surrounded by those who want not only again in a prospect of civilizing & evangelizing their brethren of the American forest but would pour their pay, real, by holding up the hands of ~~these~~ agents in the work. Instead of this my dear sir, I have met opposition at almost every point, more or less, directly or indirectly, from those too who in conference voted I expect in its favor. Traveling & local preachers as well as members untill I feel pretty much worried or worn down my calculation was to do what I could the first year, under an expectation that the business would be taken off my hands by another member of the S. Committee I so on by rotation, but I am hiring

disappointed, neither of the other members appear to be disposed
to go far in the business. It was made the business of the Elders
& traveling preachers to make collections, and either for fear
of clipping their own stipend or losing their popularity
or something else they universally do nothing with a very
few exceptions. When Brother Elliott's letter was read in
Cincinnati on the subject of supplies, it produced
nothing but an encomium on two men by the name
of James who it was said were ~~the~~ excellent bonds
of gathering agitations & it appears then the thing is lost.

The Methodists are determined my brother to show
in this world let them be as they may in the next.
many of them have many to do pretty things, but none
to help the spread of the gospel (enough of this) growth

I proposed in my last letter to you to get a some
suitable character to traverse the western part of
the Ohio conference. I did offer myself if you
could not do better, but I have I think matured the
subject more fully since & am well convinced you
can do much better than to depend on me.
A man belonging to the traveling connection will be
much better received than a local preacher. The
more authority, the better among the Methodists & the
world generally. At the very best is pretty uniform
age, but both body & soul down, my constitution never
very good I find lives away fast. I feel it my
duty to set my house in order & am in the act
of doing so. I have one thing more I laid aside
things last year, especially that of raising a crop of corn
which cannot be ~~the~~ this year.

Brother Elliott was here when I read your
letter I observed he had no doubt he could
succeed well in making collections & appeared to be
willing if not otherwise to go. I sent your letter to
brother Sale with a request he would ride over
last evening see me but he did not come. I hear no
person to help me, but I am obliged

to work all I can; I brought in over by my labor yesterday
day, which gives me an opportunity to write to you.
I will see him if I have to go to his house I see if we can send
you out a load immediately; if the road, with permit, they
are in a condition to make sales their before, but little traveling
at present in any way. Should it be so that you are obliged
to suspend the school for a season it will be best to be
properly prepared before its started again. So far as I can do
the institution services I am ready as an individual.

April 28th I must now close my letter ready for the
mail. I have seen brother Sale, the S. D. Wesleyan
society for rather the managers will meet next Thursday
in order to try to do something. I expect to deliver your message
to brother Brook in a few days; but to me it appears impossible
to be with you, with a load short of the first of June.

I have been waiting 8 or 10 weeks for the road
to be fit to travel to Cincinnati & our state in fact
its vain yet to make the attempt with a carriage.

I will get the money of brother Keturah as soon as possible
either here or send it to you. If you cannot
continue the school without too much difficulty
you will have to give a vacation until better
prepared. I continue the business of the farm or
any other way you may see best. If I can hire
a man that is worthy of trust I shall visit you
soon if not I must stay at home & look all

I can, I pray all I can. my love with
my families to sister kindly & you & all the
Wesleyan family. May our overruling
providence evangelize the world for Christ
Amen

James Taylor