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James B. Finley Letters

6-26-1823

Letter from John Johnston to James B. Finley

John Johnston

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Piqua June 26. 1823

Dear Sir,

I have received your esteemed favour of the 13th inst. I regret exceedingly that I was prevented by indisposition from attending the annual meeting of the Indians at Sandusky. My regret is increased since receiving your letter, as it would appear some benefits was calculated on from my presence among the Indians. I purposed visiting you before long, probably in August or September, at which time we may arrange such matters as may be satisfactory to all parties.

All good persons are pleased with the accounts of your progress in the cause of Indian reform. I fear however your subjects will ere long have to go the way of all their race, that is, that they will be compelled to move westward, where the Delawares and many others are gone since our Treaty in 1817. I find a great proportion of my Indians are looking to a removal. There is no such thing as preserving the Indians for

Piqua July 1st

The Rev.

James B. Finley

Upper Sandusky
Ohio

John Johnson
Indian Agent

any length of time on what is called "Preservation"
I believe I am fully warranted in the conclusion
that under the present arrangements of this Govern-
ment, the Indians cannot be saved from destruction.
I have submitted to members of Congress and others
connected with the Government, my views of Indian
policy, and the plan which in my opinion is only
calculated to save them. As in duty bound I do
all I can in aid of every plan connected with
Indian reform. I enforced it by precept and example
but my reading and reflection, and more than all
an experience of twenty two years, convinces me
that our partial and scattering efforts with
the difficulties which meet us at every step
from quarters over which we have no control
forbids the hopes of ultimate success. a great
deal could be said in detail. but I have neither
time nor room.

I noticed in the Columbus Gazette a
paper warfare on this subject. this should
be avoided, and if any of you at Sandusky
is concerned, you should drop it. you will
always suffer in the field of public contro-
versy, owing to the prejudices of the people

I see your Father often, he is well, and
I believe old and broken down as he is
he is the most acceptable Methodist Minister
who has lately visited this quarter. The Church
is ruined by so many presumptuous, unqualified
persons placed in the Ministry.

My love to your family and the Indians,
and my prayers and best wishes attend
you in all your doings
Your friend

John Johnston

P.S. July 1. If my health will permit I have concluded on
going to Sandusky some time in the present month, as I
presume this will suit your purpose better than putting
it off until after the meeting of the Church conference
at Urbana. I will conclude by adding that any thing
I can do in aid of your views and consistent with
my public duty, will be most cheerfully accorded
J. J.

please inform John Johnston that his sister and
Brothers are well.

The Rev?

James B. Finley

Upper Sandusky.