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James B. Finley Letters

7-10-1823

Letter from Charles Elliott to James B. Finley

Charles Elliott

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694
Merrill
August 3
Rev. James B. Finlay
Upper Sandusky
Ohio.

Charles Elliott
East ~~Lower~~

Hartford July 10th 1823
D. Bro.

After some difficulty we got home in safety, and are now in good health. Bro. Swayze had appointed agents on the different circuits for the purpose of soliciting and receiving contributions of flax, wool, articles of clothing, money &c for the mission, in which they were aided by the preachers. Very little money will be got. I went to Pittsburgh and there solicited them and, on which they proposed having a meeting two days after. I left there for the purpose of forming a missionary society. They are very solicitous of having two of the chiefs accompany me when I visit Pittsburgh again, which will be August the 10th; and wished them with an interpreter to meet me at Newcastle Campmeeting, which commences on the last day of July. But I imagine the chiefs cannot come at that time of the year. However, if you think proper to send them to meet me at Newcastle, I will strive to do the best I can with them. I intend to collect and carry on to Sandusky, on my way to conference, whatever may be collected in Pittsburgh, and the Ohio District. I have travelled through all the District, and have given them a general account of the mission, which I trust will have a generally good effect in remaining

the prejudices of the public. This was the most I could do under circumstances.

Various reports have been circulated respecting my leaving Sandwich, and your coming there. In Pittsburgh it was reported that I ran away; on the lake it was raised that I was tried for misdemeanors at Sandwich, and sent off for bad conduct. After you and I had the adjustment, I flattered myself, from your own profession of good intention in the manner of treating me, that all would be well, as you alleged my incompetency for filling my station, Bishop McTear's permission or rather injunction for you to go there, and your own promise to the chiefs at Marquette that you would do so as soon as health would permit. But I was, not a little surprised, in a few weeks after, to read out of your letter in the magazine, that it was on account of my family that you left your district. The same account was circulated through the Lebanon District by Bishop Geary's letter, that part of which he learned from your letter to him. These two different accounts, which appear to me contradictory, I could not, nor can I yet reconcile. My wife has certainly received very ungenerous treatment for her hard services at Sandwich, to be thus represented to the

would in a widely circulated periodical work, as well as by private letters, as the cause of a Presiding Elder's leaving his district, and of my leaving my appointment. Should it be said she could not stay there during her confinement, I grant it; yet a temporary confinement could be no reason why she was made the ostensible reason of six months dismission from an regular appointment. However, I am thoroughly persuaded, that neither her confinement, nor my incompetency, nor my going to solicit assistance for the mission was the real cause. Nor do those persons who know any thing of the circumstances of either of these was the true cause.

I am with due respect
yours

Charles Elliott