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James B. Finley Letters

8-17-1824

Letter from John Johnston to James B. Finley

John Johnston

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12 1/2

Piqua 9th
Aug 18th

The Rev.

James B. Finley

Upper Sandusky

4281 6 and 1/2
V. 6 1/2
John
Lanney



Upper Piqua
Aug. 17. 1824

My dear Sir.

I am favoured with your letter of the 2^d inst. and am always happy to hear from you. I perceive you have had much trouble in regaining the ground lost in your absence & that your prospects are once more brightening. You have many difficulties to contend with, but this is to be expected in all such undertakings. To civilize and evangelize the Heathen, is no ordinary task, the accounts we have from all parts of the world shew us, the painful labours of the missionaries.

I am grieved that you cannot have fellowship with Mr. Shaw, he could not be removed on the evidence against him, and you know the doctrine of expediency will not do in removing any man under this Government. The truth is such is the effect of public opinion in all our measures, that if he had been removed, no circumstance could have operated more disastrously to the cause in which you are engaged, he would have been viewed by very many, a persecutor.

persecuted man, and that too at the instance of religion. This was my impression at the time of trial, and all my reflections since has confirmed them. I still think you can make your uses of him, he has always appeared zealous for the reformation of the Indians, he has to my knowledge given your business every support that he could, he has never attempted to injure you as a man or a Minister in my estimation. I therefore think if you and him would often meet, you might get along smoothly. Your coldness towards each other will have a bad effect every where, will be seen and commented on by the Indians. You know we cannot always have persons and things to our liking, this is impossible. Then let us as wise men, make use of those with whom we are obliged to act, and turn every circumstance to the best advantage. This is the doctrine taught by wise men in all ages and by none more strongly, than your great preceptor the Apostle Paul. I have often been compelled to act in the discharge of my public duty, with military men and others who would have willingly done me all the evil they could. This is a great cross but it is one

which we must all bear, who are called upon to fill public stations. I have written to Mr. Shaw by this mail, and have desired him to show you my letter, to seek an interview with you, and open the door for better feelings. Make trial once more, I am of opinion he will go cordially with you in all your efforts to benefit the Indians. I assure you no one made any impression on me at Sandusky unfavourable to you, there was something said about the arbitration of the House, and I supposed you had acted rather unaidedly in condemning the judgment of the arbitrator. No man can have a higher opinion of your zeal and integrity than I have, for I have done you all the justice in my power wherever it was necessary for me to act, and you may rest assured that no person there can ever injure you in my estimation. In conclusion I must instruct you as you value the cause in which you are engaged, and your own happiness, to act with wisdom moderation and sound policy. For even policy is necessary with you. Don't listen to all that you hear for mischief makers are to be found every where. I hope to see you at Sandusky some time in Oct. and to be at Washington City in the winter. My best wishes to all your people, to Mr. Finley in particular. Your sincere friend and servant

Rev. James B. Finley

John Johnston

Sickness is increasing here