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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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12-18-1836

## Letter from Werter R. Davis to James B. Finley

Werter R. Davis

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Ripley Jackson County

Dear Father

Incommencing this epistle I feel like a banished child writing to a dear Father. Your love and parental tenderness to me when I call them up from the tombs of oblivion; they dance like the Ghosts of gone by pleasures, before the eye of my imagination. Yes I can say that period, that I was <sup>with</sup> you, and sister Findley, though very transient, is enshrined in my heart. I also call to mind the time that you, with a skilful hand, slipped the Gospel harness upon me! ought I not to love every hair of your head! Can I not with propriety say Father in the Gospel give a child advice and instruction? or shall I not be <sup>so</sup> audacious as to call myself a child of so good a man? you placed the harness upon me when but a beardless boy; and the bones scarcely hard within me, and I have been trying to squeak bark with my teeth going on two years; and my gums begin to get sore. I thought that you supposed this last conference that the blind-bridle was not a good one, and on that account the young horse had become a little fractious: but that was not what was the matter; the collar was a little to tight sometime, so I could not pull good; and on this account I was a little afraid of you, and at the same; I don't know why I should: because I do believe confidently that you could do me no harm: but all the good you possibly could. I felt so bad about it that I wept, pined, and mourned, for fear I had incurred your displeasure in some way. I have thought much since conference, and I have drawn this conclusion that you will take, and make something out of me yet; and some how or other it got into my mind that you will do more for me than any body else, and feel like looking to you as a

Jackson & Kim  
18th Dec. 1874

Dear James O. Findley

Agas Hill a Lebanon

Ohio



child looks to it Father in these matters; and I wish you  
to write me a plain, and direct home letter: so as to cut  
to the quick if you think it necessary, and open your  
heart in it; concerning me, and I assure you I will take  
your advice. My colleague broke down about a week after  
he came on, and has gone home, and I am travelling the  
Circuit by myself, and the business of the circuit come  
upon me, and I feel if there ever was a time in my life  
that I stood in need of Grace, and advice it is the present.  
What I suffer sometimes (when I see the wicked of my  
heart) words cannot express and it appears to me the more  
I struggle for holiness of heart the more and more I see  
myself to be a sinner: yet Father I rejoice though the worst  
of sinners: yes Glory be to God! I am out of a burning Hell!  
I have been some dejected in mind this year: but poor soul  
as I sometime say; you have sinned against a Holy God! —  
Notwithstanding this is the case; my poor soul (unworthy  
as I am) is filled with the love God, and I rejoice to day  
in hope of a Glorious resurrection.

Tell Mother Lindley that I am yet trying to do  
the will of God and <sup>meet</sup> her in Heaven and my prayer to God  
is that I may join you and yours in God Kingdom.

Your Son in the Gospel  
Wester A Davis