

Ohio Wesleyan University

Digital Commons @ OWU

Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

11-22-1829

Letter from George S. Houston to James B. Finley

George S. Houston

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters>

Recommended Citation

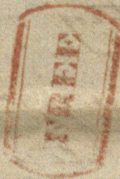
Houston, George S., "Letter from George S. Houston to James B. Finley" (1829). *Finley Letters*. 814.
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters/814>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.

influence in checking the young men, in such practices,
My kind remembrance to sister Emily, my anxious
desire is that God may bless you, prosper your labors and
grant you every consolation while travelling down the vale
of life and a happy admittance to ever lasting glory when
time shall be no more - May your unworthy brother
who amid many temptations and trials is still striving
to make the proof of ever lasting obedience

With Christian affection, as ever yours
22 Dec. 1859
Geo. S. Houston

Geo. S. Houston



Mr. P. B. A. B. in by

Quinn notes

Geo. S. Houston

Dear Brothers

It is sometime since I have seen or
heard from you, you will excuse me I trust in now
writing you respecting a matter that has been truly
unpleasant not to myself alone but to your friends in
Dayton and the Society generally, I refer to the con-
duct of your nephew James at Urbana in time of
Conference, previous at other places as in Dayton, by
statements he made respecting the Society there and
particularly my family at the time Bro Sales'
corpse was brought to Dayton and to my house,
I wrote to Bro Jones the preceding Elder a letter, naming
what I was respectfully informed James had said
in Urbana, requesting Brother Jones to show him
my letter in which I further requested him to
show what he had stated, Bro Jones wrote me
he would attend to my request - When I consider
the places and manner and the persons to whom
he had made this statement, I regret it on
his own account as well as that such a statement
should be circulated in at least four counties,
that might be repeated there was some foundation
for, when much of it is destitute of truth, all
of it respecting Bro Sales I can prove to be false,
and deeply do I regret to pronounce the young
man to have been guilty of falsehood, calumny
and detraction, even more I would say, but enough
to disown a member of our Church.

He may have had a right to say he was opposed
to the Conference being held at Dayton, but he
had no vote and it would have been prudent
in him to have remained silent, but in resorting
to falsehood to prevent it he acted very wrongly.

I had for the first time heard some thing of the
tale he related at Mahan, in time of the camp meeting
near Centerville, this summer, but did not then know
who was the author, I have since found her circum-
stances also at Xenia, and being told of its presentation
in its to Brother A & B in Dayton -

I say it is false that Bro Sales confite was carried
from house to house, that fine and candle was re-
fused and that we would not allow any one to set
up with the Confite, as respects the Society being so
mean and penurious, it did not become him to detail
such a thing, as for paying the preachers, I know
not how he got the information, I should be sorry
if it was so, and I know some beside Bro Dodson
have paid their part, and I think there are some
have done a greater share than Bro D. who James
said was the only one who and he had a real as
king as his lady", that Bro Dodson is a worthy man is
not disputed, but any one acquainted with the note of
Methodism, knows that Aaron Bakers house was first opened
for preaching, that he has acted the Christian in the
outward matters at any rate, James cannot but suppose
he would feel hurt at his expressions, of myself I have
no desire to detail matters, but believing if things
were investigated, it would be found that I have
according to my situation and circumstances done as
much for the brethren as I well could, that I have
been needed, obliged and served all when in my power,
until since Conference, was I to exhibit a statement
to James Hindley Jr. I think he would have to blush for
condemning one old enough to be his father, I may
here say I am getting old, feeble and barely able to attend
to a little business, I came to Dayton poor and have
not been in any business to accumulate wealth

but all I could throw in the way of the brethren I have
until I found myself wronged by them, and that
they have taken up the idea that I am rich, and as
I find I can get any thing done on better terms by
others, though reluctantly, I must do it, for I must
now take care of myself, I have had very few favours
of any of them in any way, but I have been satisfied
with the discipline, I have felt better toward my brethren, and I wish
I could feel so as I have in days long gone, it is to be
regretted we have so much profusion and so little principle,
that while we profess to believe in so good a religion, we
do not live up to its precepts, that the former days are
different from the present, and that the Methodist are
not that faithful zealous people they once were.

My Dear Brother, from the long existing friendship
between us, the friendship with your deceased brother and
the good feelings, I really think, I ever had for the whole
family, I regret that James should have acted in a
manner to impair the good will I had for him, but
he may say in defence I know not, but feeling
every disposition to do him justice, I wish him to
come sometime when he can attend in Dayton,
to be present, when some proper persons shall take
down the statements, in writing of Bro Kirk, Baker
and Alexander, or he can write Bro. Dodson to attend
for him. I know not where to address him to
him that he will be sure of getting, but he may
say what he may, he may rest assured he has said
too much to pass over without some notice.

Again let me say I regret to write you this letter, but
you may not have heard of it, and your advice may have been

Houston_ab517

Dear Brother,

It is some time since I have seen or heard from you. You will excuse me I trust in now writing you respecting a matter that has been truly unpleasant not to myself alone but to your friends in Dayton and the Society generally. I refer to the conduct of your nephew James at Urbana in time of Conference, previous at other places or in Dayton, by statements he made respecting the Society here, and particularly my family at the time. Bro Sales' corpse was brought to Dayton and to my house. I wrote to Bro Jones the Presiding Elder a letter, naming what I was respectably informed James had said in Urbana, requesting Brother Jones to show him my letter in which I further requested him to prove what he had stated. Bro Jones wrote me he would attend to my request. When I consider the places and manner and the persons to whom he has made this statement, I regret it on his own account as well as that such a statement should be circulated in at least four counties, that might be supposed there was some foundation for, when much of it is destitute of truth. All of it respecting Bro Sales I can prove to be false, and deeply do I regret to pronounce the young man to have been guilty of falsehood, calumny and detraction. Even more I could say, but enough to disown a member of our church.

He may have had a right to say he was opposed to the Conference being held at Dayton, but he had no vote and it would have been prudent in him to have remained silent, but in reverting to falsehood to prevent it he acted very wrong.

I had for the first time heard something of the tale he related at Urbana, his time of the camp meeting near Centerville, this summer, but did not then know who was the author. I have since found he circulated it also at Xenia, and being told of it presented it to Brother A & B in Dayton.

I say it is false that Bro Sales' corpse was carried from house to house, that fire and candle was refused, and that we would not allow anyone to sit up with the corpse. As respects the Society being so mean and pernicious, it did not become him to detail such a thing. As for paying the preachers, I know not how he got the information. I should be sorry if it was so, and I know some beside Bro Dodson have paid their part, and I think there are some have done a greater share than Bro. D who James said was the only one who "said he had a soul as big as his body." That Bro Dodson is a worthy man is not disputed, but any one acquainted with the rise of Methodism, knows that Aaron Baker's house was first opened for preaching, that he has acted the Christian in the outward matters at any rate. James cannot but suppose he would feel hurt at his expressions. Of myself I have no desire to detail matters, but believe if things were investigated, it would be found that I have according to my situation and circumstances done as much for the bretheren as I well could, that I have befriended, obliged and served all when in my power, until ____ Conference. Was I to exhibit a statement to James Finley Jr. I think he would have to blush for calumniating one old enough to be his father. I may here say I am getting old, feeble and barely able to attend to a little business. I came to Dayton poor and have not been in any business to disseminate wealth but all I could throw in the way of the bretheren I have, until I found myself wronged by them, and that they have taken up the idea I am

weak. And as I find I can get anything done on better terms by others, though reluctantly, I must do it, for I must now take care of myself. I have had very few favors of any of them in any way, but I love Methodism, its doctrines and am satisfied with the discipline. I have felt better toward my bretheren, and I wish I would feel so as I have in days bygone. It is to be regretted we have so much profession and so little principle, that while we profess to believe in so good a religion, we do not line up to its precepts, that the former days are different from the present, and that the Methodists are not that faithful zealous people they once were.

My dear Brother, from the long existing friendship between us, the friendship with your deceased brother and the good feelings, I really think, James had for the whole family, I regret that James should have acted in a manner to impair the good will I had for _____. He may say in defense I know not, but _____ every disposition to do him justice, I wish him to name sometime when he can attend in Dayton, to be present, when some proper person shall take down the statements, in writing of Bro Kirk, Baker and Alexander, or he can write Bro Dodson to attend for him. I know not where to address a line to him that he will be sure of getting, but he may say what he may, he may rest assured he has said too much to pass over without some notice.

Again let me say I regret to write you this letter, but you may not have heard of it, and your advice may have some influence in checking the young man, in such practices.

My kind remembrance to Sister Finley. My anxious desire is that God may bless you, prosper your labors and grant you every consolation while travelling down the vale of life and a happy admittance to everlasting Glory when time shall be no more. Pray for your unworthy brother who amid many temptations and trials is still straining to make the port of everlasting delivery.

With Christian affection, as ever yours

Geo S. Houston

22 Nov. 1829