Letter from George S. Houston to James B. Finley

George S. Houston

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My dear Brother,

I am so convinced that it is not of my own accord that you are in this situation. I have many things to say, and many business matters which take up my time so closely that I have little leisure to write, if my life is spared. I must patiently wait events and hope things will be better. I hope the Lord will be with me on the way, guide me in the right way, grant that my letters may be my best friends, and that my life be the best, that all that I say will be true, and what I write and what I think of life, be as pleasing to my soul.

May the Lord direct all things from the best help the present cause. Let the good cause and your work prosper, help him to his rest, and your young offspring in Christian affection.

Yours faithfully,

[Signatures]
At the state of religious house, I saw my very little
to be very one having the Protestant, and that great
thing was, we will pretend. I only ask the question of this
particular house, if it be to which was later to be
such others appear to be prosperous. Regret must not try
at this the Presbyterian and Baptist have a
four-year residence had the place, the New Higher
house and St. Mary's near the church. In that the
people reformed some integrations had the house and design
try to get up something nearer to Towers. New
Presbyterians are that little. The very true we have
Bro. William Armstrong, but I don't think there
are these particular restrictions present to their being
anything. I have thought much on the subject.
And have been if only ten instead of this time be
promised to a shaker it would be the last place
very many in and out of society as much as that
Bro. Deveraux house, more that would be places
with his leaving. Stated house, and after the
last conference. I have no doubt we can to be able to support head, could he be in the hall for
one year or two, to set things in order, to see
the man here, yet more advanced with the man,
in your own. Shakes to the house, see the children
and expressed to the minister. I have not a doubt
that we should see the thing, the present is
truly an important time and that here the new
meeting house cannot now be get it to proceed
which shall be a large, can great going on, though
it could have been better. Yet it will be more
convenient than the others. I doubt also if the
able to accept. I found presently I would
not force. I hope, yet I think the door was
left to the hands of our worth brother. But, the
men required some advice in some little
person, and he is, and is known now that would
cause little pity, or in many home we have the doors
that more strong. Before he could be seen, they
I can but remind of the g. S. John's, 1790, it is
while here, his wife, his conduct and consideration
has their influence, but while he worked with the team.
He learned from the eyes. Until the men came from
the hands, they went to the former; yes, my brother
his religion affecting and affecting manner will
never be forgotten. It was help, his influence
and influence. I love you to each other, wherever is
the one or near. The hands on Bro. Deveraux,
where is the one who now has the affections
of the people, so strongly as he has. I have found
one. Then I am not wrapped or many occasions
as giving to become among us from reason.

My dear Brother, I understand it all important
one that the hands some good man among us
and where the people live. So, I have taken
this place I have embodied myself to the as I
shone of Conference, in that I honor the restored
age our society speaking, but they know of many
car of help from the state. The Church, and these
and who will help not only. And are

Dear Brother,

I am so confined that it is out my power to meet you at Ridgeville. I have many things to say and my business takes up my time so closely that I have, but little leisure to write. If my life is spared I must patiently await events and hope things will be better. I hope the Lord will see me on the way, guide and direct me, grant that my latter days may be my best days and save me at last, that amid the trials afflictions and difficulties of life we and ours may meet on the banks of everlasting deliverance and together sing the song of Moses and the Lambs.

I need say nothing on distant subjects or I would fill my letter alone with it. I shall therefore confine myself to our own part of the Vineyard. The meeting house is going on and will soon be enclosed, though I am dissatisfied with its plan. Yet as it has been begun I should like to see it finished. It will be better than the old one.

Of the state of religion here, I can say very little. It is true many are joining the Baptists, and but few with us. We will feel anxious for the increase of the particular branch to which we belong, and when others appear to be prospering, regret ours is not so. At this time the Presbyterians and Baptist have a preacher stationed in the place. The New Lights have ______ near Dayton. ________, the German Reformed minister, resides here and designs trying to get up a meeting house in town. Our preachers are but little with us. True, we have Bro Sullivan & Ashton, but I need not say more than their particular situation prevents their being useful. I have thought much on the subject and believe if Dayton could at this time be formed to a station it would be the best plan. Very many in and out of society are anxious we should get Bro Raper here. None but would be pleased with his being stationed here, and after the best inquiry, I have no doubt we should able to support him, could he be with us for one year or two, to set things in order, to see the members, get well acquainted with them, visit from house to house, see the children and enforce old Methodism. I have not a doubt but we should see better things. The present is truly an important time with us here. The new meeting house could soon be fit to preach in, would hold a large congregation, and though it could have been better, yet it will be more convenient than the old one, and by opening it, by an able, acceptable and pious preacher, I would feel strong hopes. Yes I think the Lord would bless the labors of our worthy Brother Raper here. The times require some affectionate influential person, which is he, and I know no one that would equally suit. So many have expressed the desire that I have strong hopes he could be servicable. I can but remind you of the good John P. Finley did while here. His life, his conduct and conversation had their influence, but while he preached with the tears flowing from his eyes, while the words came from the heart, they went to the heavens. Yes my brother, his solemn feeling and affecting manner will never be forgotten. It was blessed, was effectual. And where could we get such another, where is there one so near like him as Bro Raper. Where is there one who now has the affections of the people so strongly as he has. I know of no one. Then I do not wonder so many are anxious to get him to reside among us for a season.
My dear Brother, I consider it all important we should have some good men among us in whom the people have confidence. At the same time I should be ashamed myself to ask the favor of Conference when I consider the Quarterage our society pays in, but they have assurances of help from out the Church, and those out who will help will assuredly attend and good may be done them. But as the prospect of the population of Dayton increasing is considerable and its importance being greater, I do think it worthy of giving Methodism a fair trial. I am no advocate for a settled ministry, but at this time and for two to three years, I consider it worth the trial. I should not ask for a married preacher, but the society consider no one will answer but Brother Raper at this time. And certain I am no one so well. But your long acquaintance with the Church, your willingness to do all in your power to serve us, will enable you to judge for the best in this matter and let us know your _____and opinion on the subject before any motion is made respecting such arrangement. And should you think it advisable, we can pursue such course as you may recommend in the matter.

May the Lord direct all things for the best, bless the present Camp Meeting, bless the good cause and prosper his work, bless his _____ and you and yours. Yours in Christian affection.

G.S. Houston