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James B. Finley Letters

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Letter from Methodist Magazine to James B. Finley

Methodist Magazine

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Copy of a letter
for the Advocate
of the Journal

Methodist Magazine
and Christian Advocate

Lincoln Feb 23 1831

My Editors

Allways retaining a great privilege to peruse
your excellent papers and having been often disappointed
with the soul cheering Melodians it brings I wait with some
anxiety to see the next still expecting to find something
to feed my soul and strengthen the cords of Brotherly Love
I have also been edified in some of the controversial subjects
that have filled your columns and the noble and Christian
defense made against those aspersions thrown on the M. E.
Church least as it respects her doctrine & discipline
which have in every instance according to my feeble judgment
been done but there are some exceptions that have appeared to
me would have been much better left out for the object
of a Christian writer ought not to be for evil but good
and what our exception is ~~is~~ would have a tendency
to leave the impression on the mind of a reader that the
writer does not possess the much spirit of our holy religion
is calculated to destroy the usefulness of his production
for it ought allways to be remembered that no one can be
browed unless he contends lawfully; I read a piece in your
number 232 under the head of Theological Methodism and
signed by Methodist and one of his exceptions I think is
very exceptionable he says in the City of Philadelphia we happen
to know that Calvinism is any thing or nothing as the folks there
to have it first there is they old Blue Stocking Calvinism
this seems to me to be dishonouring ~~a~~ a branch of the
Church of Christ and all tho they may be in some errors -
Does not seem to me to be a proper license for such expressions
for it will not tend to reform their errors ~~and~~ ^{or} spare them
from them; but to regard and render them ~~more~~
acceptable and do no other ~~good~~ than to wound their
feelings

The writer may excuse himself by saying that they have
said things that are not known nor were even done or
held by Methodist Preachers. ~~Should~~ ought to be reported
truly. Let it be so but does this become a Methodist
to such expressions is it not threatening Evil for Evil
or revelling for revelling and is not this exceeding
forbidding in the Holy Scriptures and also a breach of
~~the~~ General Rules. Such expressions ought not to be ad-
mitted in to the Advocate of Christianity for several
Reasons 1. ~~It is~~ wrong in its self 2. it belongs to the spirit
of Mock & Sabe Christian Love is it calculated to do an
injury not only to the Persons Shaken off by increasing
their Enquiries, &c, but to many of your readers; many
wrote to your paper are intermarried and connected with
Calvinist families perhaps the wife or husband Parents or
children are of that faith such expressions are calculated
to separate them further from a union in sentiment
and especially in enjoyments; and helps; for there is no
argument in it and seems to flow from an exasper-
ated persecuting spirit; then from love to the souls
of the mistaken people how long would it have been
to have left out the words blue stockings then it would
have read there is the old Calvinist I do hope that you
will through the medium of your paper ^{or otherwise} advise the Brother
Methodist to be careful of such epithets as the car-
rier of no ~~benefit~~ to any Person I have no objection to
a forth-right defence of the Church in her doctrines &
discipline against all invaders but let it be done in the
best way yours Truly

Yours

X. Y.

A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.