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Letter from William Neff to James B. Finley

William Neff

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PAID

Rev. James D. Finley

German Town

Ohio

Ms. A. 9. 2. 77

Cincinnati July 25th 1840.

Dear Br Finley

I feel actually forced to

take my pen and acknowledge receipt of your long neglected favors or forfeit your friendship. I am at best a very indifferent correspondent, as you know, and since my constitution has become impaired by Dyspepsia, it afflicts me to write, not however so much but that I could have replied to your very kind letter, which is always a pleasure when I get at it, but my wife and myself have both been constantly intending to write you for a long time past.

The doings of Conference I presume do not all merit your approbation - it appears to me that whole proceedings were much lessened in dignity, from what it was in Cincinnati 4 yrs ago.

The Ladies Magazine to be published here is likely to have vast circulation - it will no doubt be edited by Br Hamlin, and if rightly conducted may be productive of great good in various ways.

Br Elliott has gone to New York to look into the subject of our Sunday School Library with the view to doing something towards its improvement here - he has gone "on his own hook", the agents here having refused their consent in the case - perhaps

my anxiety on the subject has somewhat influenced his movements - I was in hopes that the late Conference would have acted emphatically on the subject - It has been, and is, woefully neglected, and there is no subject to my mind, that we could look to for more happy results, if properly attended to, than the Sunday School cause - It cannot flourish under an present Library, if such it can be called.

Br Wright by his movements at the Conference and his coming back to the Book Room has not added to his popularity.

We have just passed a peaceful quarterly Conference at Wesley - at the Lord's feast there were nearly 500 read into full communion - the young converts generally are giving fair promise, altho a considerable number have fallen away.

Br Selvon is on a visit to his Parents, and Br Gaddis' health is very delicate, that we are almost without a Preacher - Br Latta has made himself quite useful, altho his health is very imperfect - he is likely to get along well in his practice.

Br Durbin was expected in Town to day, but whether he has arrived or not I cannot say - I presume

he will endeavor to revive the subject of an Ohio College, but the receiving the academy at Springfield will I suppose prevent any ^{thing} further being done for years - and until the general Conference takes some action on the subject of taking all the professors from amongst our strongest men in the pulpit, I think there will be a difficulty in raising the necessary means. When the services of more than one is required in a place, as in our colleges, Book Agents & Editors &c - the President or principal should be from the itinerancy, only.

We had some thought at one time that we might make you a visit this season, but the probability now is that we shall remain in the City during the Summer - Our Peter is somewhat unwell to day, otherwise we are all well, and all join in love to you all.

I hope it will not be long before you visit us - I believe you have not since our acquaintance been so long away at one time -

Yours friend & Mother is
William Stebbins