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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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3-18-1846

## Letter from Samuel A. Latta to James B. Finley

Samuel A. Latta

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All eyes are turned upon you, by broth Walkers article.  
Please write to me on the receipt of this, & let me know what  
you intend to do. With me a correction at this late period is of little  
consequence. The agony of death is passed. The Advocate has been  
used to traduce me for the last twelve months while I have been denied the  
privilege of self defence & of course I have but little to loose in the estimation

said

Rev J B Hinley

Columbus

Ohio

I do not  
not believe  
nor will be

of the readers of that paper & yet as the Lord will I will see to it  
for the violation of the terms of compromise fall on whom it may  
yours Respectfully  
Rev J B Hinley.

J A Latta

Cinc March 18<sup>th</sup> 1846.

Brother Hinley;

I have waited long for a fulfillment of the terms of  
compromise, agreed upon between you and myself, at the last  
Ohio Conference. You will no doubt recollect, that I told you  
then and there, that you had been misled in charging me with  
the publication of your southern letter, to Rev Lacey & Bradley &  
that I had not used said letter as charged in your communication  
- on; And that unless you made the correction through the West  
Advocate, where you knew I could not be heard in self de-  
- fence I should notwithstanding my obligations to you, in  
justice to myself bring the matter before the Conference  
for investigation; but you said we could settle the matter pri-  
- vately

Subsequently, you admitted that you had been misled and in  
the presence of Dr. Elliott & others said you desired a correction of  
the statements contained in your letter which had been previously  
published; and Dr. Elliott said he would cheerfully make the cor-  
rection

You then threw your arms around me & wept aloud, and I was  
also deeply affected and felt for you <sup>all</sup> the tenderness which a  
son feels for a father not once dreaming of disappointment in  
the non fulfillment of promises thus solemnly made.

It was my understanding at the time & I suppose you so understood it  
that Dr. Elliott was to publish the explanatory agreement then  
made consequently I did not blame you for ~~the~~ non appearance  
in the Advocate But be this as it may the responsibility now  
devolves upon you in that the misrepresentations are not correct



Moreover you will see from broth Walkers Article that he throws the responsibility upon you - He admits that Corrections were to have been made through the Advocate but excuses Dr. Elliott ~~on~~ by saying that you & I were to have furnished a written statement for publication. This was not my understanding of the matter & it is placing you in an attitude before the public which cannot fail to tarnish your character as a man of honor & integrity. A Character which I have always cheerfully awarded to you. Just look at broth Walkers admissions & you will see that this will be the inevitable result.

He says there was a bad state of things between you and myself that the difficulty was compromised - that the parties wept in each others arms - that certain things were to have been corrected through the Advocate in my favor - that Dr. Elliott was ready to publish but that you & I had furnished nothing for publication.

Now every one who reads broth Walkers article will know of course that although he names me in connection with you the fault could not be mine since the publication was intended to relieve me from unjust imputation, consequently the charge of unfaithfulness & breach of pledged faith according to broth Walkers showing rests upon you exclusively. This I do not believe. But I confess in view of Dr. Elliotts paper & Walkers <sup>version</sup> ~~version~~ of it I am at a loss to know why you have not made the publication promised.

Your own standing in view of broth Walkers explanation imperiously demands it. It is a matter I presume of much greater importance than you have imagined or you would have given it your attention long since. Justice not only to me but to yourself requires it especially since Walkers publication.

This will strike you more forcibly when you recollect that I stated in Open Conference that you had acknowledged that you had been misled - that you & Elliott had agreed to correct your statement in the paper. The preachers will also recollect that I declared at the same time that if either of you contradicted any thing I then said ~~that~~ the whole matter should be investigated before the Conference & you did not contradict me. I say these facts are known to the Conference. Think you then the preachers of the Ohio Conference will sustain any one who openly violates solemn promises which were made as a basis of compromise by which investigation was superseded or stand off? Never, no never! I have too much confidence in the integrity & moral purity of these preachers of the Ohio Conference to believe them capable of any such thing. And although they differ from me in their views of Church ~~discipline~~ I would not fear to trust them in the administration of ~~justice~~ in any matter involving Character. Nor can I believe that you would promise a Correction of Misstatements for the sake of escaping investigation & then fail to redeem that promise after the danger was passed. My knowledge of your Character & the feeling manifested on the occasion forbids such a conclusion. I cannot & will not believe you capable of the unmitigated hypocrisy which would necessarily connect itself with the ~~making~~ <sup>making</sup> & promise of that hour on the supposition that the promised correction was not intended. I believed then & I believe now that you expected Dr. Elliott to make the <sup>correction</sup> Correction but as he has not I will not I think it becomes your duty to do it without delay. Since broth Walkers publication the thing has been talked of by many of the Ministers & Members of the Ohio Conference.