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James B. Finley Letters

4-17-1849

Letter from Samuel McAdow to James B. Finley

Samuel McAdow

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On Yesterday at half past 2 O'clock
his Funeral Was Preached by Bro. Westley
And attended by a large Concurrence of
the Citizens & that God Would sanctify
this afflictive dispensation of his Providence
to the Good of the Family And may
We see him And act in this World
that We may ultimately meet our
departed Father in that World where
Sorrow pain & death are felt
And feared no more

According to the Record in the Bible at Ham
He was in his 78 Year

But I have in my possession a letter written
to him by his Brother Andrew from the
Old Homestead which makes him in his
Eightieth Year And I incline to think
that is correct As Andrew had the Old
Family Bible to look at

Bro Findley as you were better acquainted
with Father than any one Else please
Write a Piece for the Western Christian
Advocate

Please answer this letter

The Family join in sending their
love to you

I remain Yours in Christ

Samuel M. Adams

Shillicothe Mo April 7th 1849.

Dear Brother Findley,

I sent you a Telegraphic despatch
Yesterday morning announcing the Death of my aged
and Venerable Father. I now drop you line to give
you some particulars in reference to him
During the forepart of the past winter his Bodily health
was remarkable good but that strange operation
of the Mind which he laboured under for the past
few years in which the Mind seemed to dwell upon
matters and things which were connected with the
days of his boyhood Continued to afflict him
The Old Homestead in Maryland was something He
often wished to converse about

He would often talk of his Parents and manifest
the most anxious solicitude to go home and
see his Parents

He would often call over the Names of his Brothers
and Sisters and then ask if they were living
And his Mind could not be diverted more readily
from dwelling upon these things than by
directing his attention to Religion and to that
Home in Heaven where the Many are forever at
Rest

In the Month of January He had a Violent attack
of Pneumonia from which he recovered but I noticed
that he inclined after that spell to sit more
in his Armchair He remained Very Fleeshy but I
noticed for the last two months that He was
evidently declining although there seemed to be
no particular disease

Some four weeks ago I called in the Evening and found Mother and my Sister sitting around the Candle at Work and my Father was sitting looking anxiously towards them He then asked them if it was not time to go about worship to which one of my sisters replied no that it was too soon to go to bed as it was only dark He however soon repeated his enquiry I then spoke and told my Mother to tell Him that they were ready then said He we will Pray we all knelt around the Family Altar and He Prayed a sensible Prayer but when He came to the Conclusion of his Prayer instead of closing with an Amen He commenced and offered up a second Prayer and after he arose to our seats He continued to pray sitting upon his Chair in all of which exercise He was happy and enjoyed himself very much

About a week previous to his Death ^{we} He became very anxious to go home I was at my Brother John's and Amanda came in and wished John to go in and get him to sit down that he was walking round & round the room and they could not prevail upon him to sit down John & I went in and made ourselves known to him and asked him what he wanted He replied I want to go home He told him he was at Home that he had his wife and several of his Children after some time we prevailed upon him to sit down but He seemed dissatisfied I then sang his favorite Hymn and He joined with us heartily in singing He then knelt and I joined in prayer with and He responded heartily to the Prayer

On Wednesday morning last I called in in the Morning and found him lying on the Bed I asked my Mother if he was not so well she replied that he seemed unwilling to get up I asked Him how He felt He said Very comfortable in the afternoon I called again and found him rather feeble at Night I found him more feeble and discovered that his breathing was labored at times and his pulse rather feeble

He then asked me who would Preach that Night as it was the regular night for Preaching I told Him Bro. Weakly He then said He would like to have singing & Prayer He sang his favorite Hymn Children of the Heavenly King He joined with him in Prayer to which He responded this was about 9 o'clock in the Evening and then labored spells of breathing continued until half past four o'clock

On Thursday Morning He bid farewell to the sorrows & afflictions of Earth and his happy spirit was intent upon that best that remains to the People of God He was Confined but one whole day to his bed I will say in Conclusion that I never knew a man whose faith in the discharge of Christian duties

I never knew him wilfully to absent himself from Preaching, Prayer Meeting Class Meeting the Family Altar or place of secret Devotion while he retained his mind