

Ohio Wesleyan University

Digital Commons @ OWU

Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

4-11-1836

Letter from Robert O. Spencer to James B. Finley

Robert O. Spencer

John H. Fielding

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters>

Recommended Citation

Spencer, Robert O. and Fielding, John H., "Letter from Robert O. Spencer to James B. Finley" (1836). *Finley Letters*. 865.

<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters/865>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.

695

Copy of
Fieldings & Mr
M B Shivers
1836

Single

Warren County,
Tidgswille,
Ohio.

Rev James D. Finley,
10 18 30



PAID

122

Should the Rev. Mr. Finley be at Cincinnati the Post Master
will please forward this letter

Chillicothe April 11th 1836.

My dear Brother,

The following is the copy of a letter from the Rev. Solomon
H. Fielding directed to you at this place, which I took out of the office three or four days
since and would have sent it immediately to you, only I understood from Bro. Senn
that you had written to him that you expected to be at his Quarterly Meeting
last week.

St. Charles, Mo. 21st March 1836.

Dear Brother Finley

It has occurred to me that the Committee appointed to in-
vestigate some matter of complaint made against me by Mr. M^r. Cowen, might have the busi-
ness so prepared, as to be able to transact it some time during the month of May, in Cin-
cinnati: as perhaps nearly all the parties will be there at that time. The first week in May
would be the best for me, as my vacation includes April. Will you inform me whether such
arrangement can be made and if so, I shall endeavour to attend, though it will be to me both
seriously expensive and inconvenient; and though I have not yet received even a hint respecting
the nature of the complaint.

Perhaps the next most appropriate time
for this business, should the above be unsuitable, would be that of your Annual Conference.
Indeed it seems to me, that since the complaint was first carried to the Conference, without the
previous steps prescribed by our discipline and by our Christianity, the Conference is the proper place
for its investigation. The Conference, however, did the best that could be done, under the circumstances
and committed it, as I have said before, to the most judicious hands. When and where is your next
Conference to be held? I feel a great wish to attend if possible. I have before said, that had I known
of this intended complaint, before my leaving Augusta, I should have remained there till after
the Conference of last year.

Please reply to this as soon as you can say, whether the arrangement proposed, can be made.
I have received but one letter from you, and have been apprehensive that you had written more, as
our mails in the far west are very irregular.

It will gratify you to hear, that our school prospers beyond our hopes. The generous proprietor
Mr. Collier, has offered it to the Missouri Conference, and refers the terms to me. In this little
village, originally French and of course Catholic, the protestant population, begins to preponderate.

= desolate. Here, every good cause was low, almost absent. Last June when I arrived, we had no society, and could scarcely gather a congregation. We have now a good class; and large, sometimes overflowing congregations. I wish our friends eastward, could be impressed with the importance of our cause at the present time in Missouri. Immense efforts are making by our presbyterian brethren benevolent and laudable efforts certainly; and if we continue our course, our present course, they will acquire the honour of controlling the religion, the morals, and the education of the State. Our ministry want force. We do not want young men; but a few of our experienced men or fathers, would here sustain the church, and be themselves sustained. On this subject I could say much - but must close. Give us your interest at the throne of grace! - pray for me! I am poor and needy; but I am on the heavenly journey; and rejoice in redeeming love -

I am very affectionately your brother

J. H. Fielding

Such is the letter sent to you. If you may be permitted to suggest a thought, would it not be well to publish in the Western Christian Advocate the time, when the committee will meet. Our prospects in this station are not quite so flattering as some time past. It is true our congregations are very large and attentive, and at times there is considerable excitement in the church. Indeed it would seem as if nothing at times would prevent a revival and then some difficulty occurs in the church about which there is a diversity of opinions, having a tendency to divide their affections. Nor are we idle about the Book Concern. Almost immediately after we received intelligence of the sad catastrophe which had befallen us a church measure was adopted by us to repair the loss. But great opposition was manifested against building such a large concern in N. York; hence I concluded to draw up a subscription paper with a view to increase the establishment at Cincinnati with a proviso that the funds raised should be at the disposal of the General Conference. On this plan we shall raise five hundred dollars or more.

Doct. M^r. Adow is fast recovering - he was indeed quite low but is at present convalescent. Our last Quarterly Meeting was held April 1-3. Bro. Matthews and Armstrong were with us - but we had by no means so good a meeting as we sometimes have on ordinary occasions. Some presented themselves as candidates for membership and some eight persons came forward to be prayed for but among ^{them} were at least four abandoned prostitutes, which threw a damp on the whole congregation.

Give my love to your dear wife and believe me your affectionate brother in Christ
Robert C. Spencer

