

3-15-1849

Letter from Benjamin F. Tefft to James B. Finley

Benjamin F. Tefft

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Cin. March 15, 1849.

Mr. Finley,

Mr. Howe was here, and told me about some plates, but did not show me any drawings, or any thing of the kind.

My opinion is, and it is the opinion of the agents, that a few pictures, say six or seven, would add much to the saleability of the work. How says 20,000 copies could be sold with proper exertions, and thinks I ought to put on it twice or three times the work we proposed, if I remember rightly what he said. He told me that the manuscript of his history of Ohio cost him not less than \$1500, besides his own time. That is about what I should have supposed; but our matter must cost us vastly less than that, as the agents would not feel in good heart to go ahead. I have of course followed your directions, having modified the plan of the work considerably from the first. I am now waiting to get some books on Prison History and Prison Discipline from abroad; but shall begin to write with all my might in about a week.

We are all well. You might as well come down by the 3^d week in April, when I hope to have something for you to read.

As ever affectionately
B. F. Tappan



Jan. 13. 1874

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[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text covering the majority of the page.]