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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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5-11-1849

## Letter from Benjamin F. Tefft to James B. Finley

Benjamin F. Tefft

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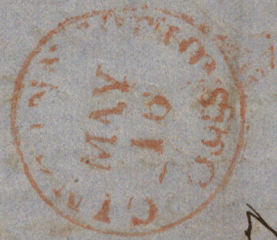
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Ch 726

Rev. J. B. Finley

Eaton

Ohio.

64 copy  
 J. B. Finley

Cin. May 11. 1849.

My dear brother,

Your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. came to hand this morning. I was just about writing you in relation to the book before yours came, and so I will say what I had to say, and answer your note, all in one.

First, then, I have made a pretty thorough examination of the manuscript and have written about enough to make one hundred and twenty five pages of the book. I have put more than twice as much work on it as was thought necessary at first; but in consideration of your repeated wishes, that I would not spare labor on it, and in view of the real value of the matter, I have done and am doing work, which I could not have done, for any other consideration than that it was for the Concern and yourself, for less than \$500. I have told the Agents, however, that I shall charge \$300, and that you may consider as my price, whatever amount of work I put to it.

Secondly, The Agents have been waiting for it for some time, and have even deferred other work in order to get this ready for them. From what was said between yourself & them, and between you and me, at the time you were here, we all understood the one point to be fixed, namely, that they were to have the manuscript at some



price. Otherwise they would have been publishing other books, and I should have been at work preparing them. The price, however, both of my labor and of your work was left undecided, as neither party could tell much about price, until the work was somewhat under way.

Thirdly, the manuscript would make a work, if all used, of over 800 pages. It is rather my opinion that we ought not to exceed 500 pages at first; and then, if it sells well, another volume could be easily added.

Fourthly, the Agents I presume will give you enough to pay me, to pay the old score you spoke of to me of \$150, and probably something more - they paying for such cuts as may be deemed necessary.

Fifthly, I presume you can get Howe to make drafts of the cuts. If not, we can get them made by some one else just as well as he can make them.

Lastly, I am hard at work on the book, and shall be ready for you to come and hear a specimen of what I have done in it as soon as you please to make the trip. I ought to have an idea of what cuts you propose before any part of the manuscript goes to press; and you ought to have the reading of what I have written, as you are the only one to be

held responsible for any thing which the book may contain. The public will not know me in it at all. You had better, therefore, come down pretty soon.

The Cholera is here, but we have no great fear of that. We all go on just as if it were in Spain, and not here at all. Whether you will think it safe to come you must judge. It will not be necessary for me to go to Columbus for some time yet.

We are all well. Perhaps I ought to explain number two of my orthodoxy sermon - for my letter has a great many heads and tails. Do not understand me that I imagine you had any other idea than that the understanding was that the Agents were to have the book. That, I have always understood, as being fixed beyond a question; and my number two was written, because I could not see that you had any reason to apprehend they would not take it. They agreed to take; and I expect them, like all other honorable men, to be as good as their word.

Yours as ever

B. F. Defft.

P.S. When you come, come directly to my house.