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Letter from Benjamin F. Tefft to James B. Finley

Benjamin F. Tefft

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Cin. July 4. 1849.

Dear brother,

You probably know the reason why I have not written you. I am now nearly recovered from my protracted sickness, but such is the awful severity of Cholera here, that nearly every sort of business is suspended excepting what pertains to the day that is passing. The future, just at this moment, is too uncertain for any definite calculations. Still, if we are alive through, the following subjects I would respectfully suggest for the pictures: The outside view of the prison; (enlarged, perhaps, from Howe's) A view the prisoners marching in the lock-step; A prisoner being punished by showering; The prisoners at the table during morning prayer; The Chapel during preaching. Your own portrait in the beginning. There would make six in all. Howe's plates are not good enough. We must have them daguertyped and then engraved. There will be

Wm. D.

July 49

Rev. J. D. Furley,
Canton, Ohio.

time after the Epidemic shall have subsided. I have not written to Home, as I do not think he can be of much service to us.

My family is well except my mother, who was struck with palsy two weeks ago. She is very low and may not recover.

Bro. Power has lost a daughter and half the city is sick. The deaths by Cholera yesterday 137. About 4/5ths are foreigners, but some of our best citizens are gone.

I know not where to send this, but shall venture on sending it to Columbus. If you do not get it immediately, it will be no great matter, as we shall not do anything with the book till the epidemic subsides. Let me say, from experience and observation, in relation to Cholera, treat all manner of diarrhoea as if it were Cholera. That

is, stop it instantly, and you will be likely to save many lives. A neighbor of mine has just died because his doctor treated his diarrhoea as if it were of a common bilious character as it appeared to be at first.

The Lord bless you and those you, is my sincere prayer.

Affectionately,

Your Brother,

Wm. L. Giff.

P.S. I have nearly finished my part of the book. In ten days I could close it up.