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James B. Finley Letters

5-13-1812

Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley

John P. Finley

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May 13th 1812 Green County Ohio - Union Seminary

Brother James & I received your letter last Saturday & I am glad to hear of your welfare - I felt the spirit of animadversion but the reception of your letter has driven all from my breast - I had written twice and received no answer for which I could not account - We are through the mercy of God numbered among the living. we are all well except Sally. She has recently been confined to bed by a bad cold she had taken but finds herself in a state of convalescence - We are still trying to find our way to the Mansion of happiness although we have deep waters to go through and many things productive of sorrows and deep distress to impede our progress in a divine life yet we feel sincerely thankful that the Lord has been our helper and has not put more upon ^{us} than we are able to bear - The love of a bleeding Jesus sweetens all the trials of life it makes even a prison a palace and a howling wilderness a paradisiacal residence to all his faithful children - I am more than ever bound for Heaven and am determined to lead my family up the shining way. I have lately had a sorrowful heart about my relations. one morning before I took my seat in the school house I received intelligence that one of my Brothers passed through Xenia with the Troops bound for Detroit I mounted a horse and followed after determined to overtake them and accordingly at Dayton 16 Miles from this place I found G. W. B. of N. W. H. with nearly all his company among whom was Robert and Patan Haugh with almost all the young boys in our old neighborhood. my soul wept bitterly and more especially when I found him in a Mess with some of the wicked Bords. I took him with some others out from the camp and after exhorting them to take care of wicked company to flee from sin and embrace Jesus Christ. I felt some ease of mind I gave him up to God, bid farewell, and took my departure home. Language would fail to express my sorrow at heart the heavy sighings and groanings which cannot be uttered that continually moved within me. but I have done all that I can do

