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James B. Finley Letters

5-29-1813

Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley

John P. Finley

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Recommended Citation

Finley, John P., "Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley" (1813). *Finley Letters*. 912.
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Kenia. Co.
June 10

Rev. James B. Hinley
travelling preacher
H. Clairsville is toward
Hendricksville, Ind.

129/1813
My Dear James & I suppose you think I have almost forgotten you and from my infrequent letters it would probably appear so - but I have not forgotten you entirely although I have not written but once to you since Conference - We are at present in health and enjoy the good things of this life for which I feel thankful to the Father of mercies - I am still teaching school but feel myself greatly wearied in the employment and have almost concluded to pursue something else the ensuing year - I know I should feel myself more contented if I had a small farm to occupy and could enjoy many great and glorious privileges which are at present cut off from me in consequence of my occupation being so confining - You write you have bought Lots in the Town of Barnsville and I am afraid that I will not be a neighbor to you soon - the distance is great and every thing looks gloomy when I think of migrating to that place - My family increases my purse declines and the great law of nature cries out take care - I have generally calculated to root near to you but you have planted yourself so far distant that my wings cannot bear me up to fly unto you I intend trying to arrange my affairs so as to be able to visit you in the winter after my school expires which will be the 5th of January - If I should be so fortunate as to gain my land I shall then be able to move with vigor my wings will grow larger and stronger and perhaps I shall be able to reach you in your lengthy retreat - I think it would have been much better if you had bought a small tract of land for I intended (if I lost mine) to have fixed myself in yours so that I could take care of my Dear Sister and you to continue proclaiming the glad tidings of Salvation - I hope that God who has made us like David and Jonathan will roll us together by his providence and so fulfil our hearts desire - I really think long to see you Hannah and Betsey but cannot say certainly when it shall be unless the time mentioned above

I have had difficulties to encounter my besetments have been many and great. I have been greatly wounded in the house of my friends but have and do still forgive as I hope to find forgiveness of my father who is in Heaven. My soul prospers in a divine life and I am frequently on the mountain top I have never felt like running away from Jesus Christ the best of all friends who sticketh closer than a brother. When I forget my griefs and fears "and look beyond this vale of tears, to that celestial hill," heavenly ardor fires my soul and I cry out—give me my Jesus and my all—if I had no hope of Heaven I should be completely unhappy but that glorious hope of perfect love it anchors me above all the sorrows of this life and by faith lands me in the suburb of glory—I cannot look into futurity only by faith founded on the word of God but I do believe that if faithful the morning in which the trumpet of God shall sound will be the most happy time I have ever seen. Oh the comforts of religion the precious love of Jesus what tongue can tell what Angel can describe the joy of those who live and die in Christ my heart fills mine eyes run down with tears of joy, my soul takes fire I burst forth in praises to God and the Lamb—Jesus the name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease who would not have so good a friend Surely none but the sons of ignorance and folly—We love him, but alas we love him too little how prone we are by the old nature to travel from him how apt we are to be fond of earthly toys and mingle with the world may God help us to live near the wounded side of the blessed savior—may we live happy in his love and in his cause expire—I have been at one Camp Meeting this season where the Lord poured out of his spirit and nearly 20 were made partakers of justifying grace—Notwithstanding the wickedness of the times the Lord is mindful of his people. I cannot say that we have had times past common but there appears to be a general firmness among the Members although some have bowed down unto the golden image and the great Doctor Moore of Lebanon has left

left Society denied our Articles of faith and openly declared himself no longer a member ^{of} our Church. Brother Lakin proceeded to bring him to trial but he flew the way and would not stand the test our Quarterly Conference then declared him unauthorized to preach the Gospel—God forbid that ever you or I should do a like action—Let us stand firm unmovable and always abounding in the holy doctrines of Jesus Christ that we may be able to stand and having some all to stand—Sally wishes to settle near you but how it can be effected I cannot at present see Providence may perhaps lead me in a way that I have not known and so fulfil our long desires. My mind has been drawn out after some other occupation than School Keeping but how matters will terminate the Great All Wise only knows—Brother & Sister Haugh are well and the children except Polly but she is recovering from her long sickness Sister Hannah recently had another Daughter and calls her Nancy—Brother Robert is here at School with me he is very teachable and studious and I think has some intention to get religion I have spread my wings over him and intend to methadize him if possible I must soon close my unconnected letter Stand on your watch tower having your lamp trimmed and brightly burning that when the bridegroom appears you may enter into the marriage feast I am more than ever determined to meet you in glory—I am and believe me never to be your sincere & unworthy brother until I am laid in the grave
Rev. James B. Finley May 29th John P. Finley
1813

P. Sally and the children send their love to you and Aunt mine not forgetting cousin I need not send you have them already James can spell smartly and says he wishes to be a Doctor and the thought of living on that lot to study and practice physic with uncle lifts him up to the skies. God bless you farewell my Brother Sister and Niece
J P Finley