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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

12-21-1813

Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley

John P. Finley

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926
17
Rev. James B. Finley

Barnesville

Ohio

My Dear James { If you knew the true state of my mind you would certainly compassionate my situation. I might truly say a thousand things resolve in one day. I frequently desire that you lived nearer to me to give me counsel - But blessed be God I have not forgotten the one thing needful I do enjoy a sweet union with the heavenly Lamb. I try sometimes to call sinners to repentance but lament that I am so unsuccessful. I have had one severe attack of sickness this winter our children have been sickly but are recovering thanks be to the father of lights - Last August Sally had two sons one we call Robert Thomas and the other John P. Finley they grow but are very troublesome especially at night. St Paul said they who married should have trouble in the flesh and how easily I can believe what he said. My means to raise a family are small but you know the Lord feeds the ravens. I am sometimes really concerned for my family and feel perhaps too much anxiety to be settled. If it should please God to call me off they would be left in a situation truly lamentable - The Lord preserves and he knows what is best, and blessed be his holy name forever & & ~

Our Quarterly Meeting is past and not a soul converted
I have seen and heard the great Rev. Parker he is a lovely
Man and Bro Linsey is as lovely—Our old Father was
here and they did not so much as invite him to preach
he was well and on his journey to heaven—Intend if
providence opens my way to make next spring to Cincinnati
if not somewhere else I am determined to leave this place
I have been treated with so much contempt both as a
teacher and as a preacher that I cannot stay with any
satisfaction—when it is determined I shall let you know
my resting place—~~I~~ pray God to make my movements and
fix my stations where I can best glorify his name—If
I were sure that you are now fixed for life I think I would
try to get to you—My school is nearly done and I cannot
come to see you this winter in time of the evacuation I must
go to Kentucky and the Lord only knows when and where
I shall see you again—Paradventure not until I see you at
our father's house above—bless God for the hope of heaven
tears of joy are now flowing down my face I must fall
from my feelings or I shall not see to write Heaven is so
sweet—bright glory is charmingly ravishing I must dwell
upon it when I think of that day which shall our flesh restore

When death shall all be done away and bodies part no
more—I received a letter from you not long since
and I fully intended to have answered you before this
time I hope you will forgive my negligence and not serve
me as I have served you Sally joins me in sending
our best and warmest love to you and Sister Hannah
not forgetting Betsey I am and believe me to be ever
Your Brother John P. Finley

Rev. James B. Finley

Decem^r 21st 1813

P.S. James & Elvira send love to you their Aunt and
especially cousin Betsey

I never wanted to see you so bad in all my life, for many
reasons, but I cannot—and what can't be cured must be endured
Pray for us—Let us meet in heaven—Oh blessed Bro
farewell

Rev. James B. Finley

John P. Finley