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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

1-25-1816

Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley

John P. Finley

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Recommended Citation

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Dayton Jan 25th 1816

My dear James }

Monday last I received your welcome letter and was glad to find that you and yours were in health. You are still expecting me to bring my family into that part of the world and I on my part am hoping to get there but when I cannot tell I now lament I did not go last fall I waited to be better fixed but alas I am worse. I engaged here and quarter as I wrote you waiting to find my family in a state of convalescence before I could venture the journey that quarter expired and instead of being better we were worse being myself at death's door, after a little recovery I was obliged to engage another quarter, for you know it will never do to be idle when on expenses, which will terminate in April, about the first, and then it will be so muddy I fear it will be impossible to get along. and if I obtain another quarter there will be a family concern of a periodical nature that will block up my way, so that I shall have to make the year out. I should not have engaged the second quarter but among my many pull backs, my Sarah Mary pined for the journey took the cholera and died. which threw me out at least \$5.00 from what I have written you will say that I certainly have great need of persevering grace, I am sure if this fails my wishes will forever remain without accomplishment. But let me tell you that in the midst of all my conflicts I feel that Christ is my redeemer and that his presence is more than an ample reward for all my distresses I have sent for Morris to come to my house I expect him in a few days and I have had some thought of sending him on to Barnesville to cultivate some ground and when the rainy wet time in the spring was over and the ground a little settled I would follow with my family. From the communications of your last letter and for several reasons which the limits of this paper will not hold I think it would be better for us to settle in Barnesville, especially so if the land is fertile. because ^{could} I speak in any of the towns as easy at a distance if Morris ^{was} with them and they could be supported from their own industry and what you could make on your circuit and I at school would be clear gains only what would pay Morris

Write to me directly after you receive this letter. I have been greatly hurried in writing

If necessary should attend the beginning of the crop and then the
 residue of the time spend out at teaching, all the earning, would be
 clear gain and when necessary we might enlarge, I suppose you
 think this is a windy castle but whatever you may think there is
 comfort would arise to me was I fixed so, should I die you
 could see to Sally and the children and should you die I could
 see to Hannah & Betsey. Should Sally die Hannah could raise my
 daughters, Should Hannah die Sally could see to your affairs
 Should we all die we'd get to Heaven, bless the Lord for the hope
 my heart and eyes are now full. Glory to my God forever
 You told me in your last to bring all the money with me that
 I could, some time back I could have brought \$200. but from
 the loss of my more sickness, house rent and Boston bill, if I get
 there with a five penny bit I shall be thankful. James farewell
 We all unite in love to you Hannah & Betsey. and believe me
 to be unutterably yours in life and death John P. Finley

934

Recd James P. Finley
 at Newville
 (P.M.)

25/2

Boston
 Jan^y 29th 1849