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James B. Finley Letters

10-27-1818

Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley

John P. Finley

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bundle light Piqua Oct 27th 1818

My dear James, Your last letter, with its contents, came safe to hand and I am well satisfied with your disposal of the stove. I feel very lonely for the want of your company. I do not know how to live without you. I fully expected you here this fall, but alas! I am sadly disappointed, although I think you are excusable on the account of your afflictions. The treaty is concluded with the Indians, the principles of which you have perhaps seen in some of the papers. Boro Johnston says that it is the greatest purchase that has ever been made. The land is generally good, highly situated, and well watered, and of course will be healthy. I suppose if the treaty concluded by the Com^{rs} be ratified by government that landjobbers will be as numerous and as troublesome in this region, as the fowls were to Abraham when he had prepared the bodies of the beasts to sacrifice upon the altar. I am determined to oppose them, with many others, and I pray that we may be successful in driving those Eagle-eyed Vultures from so lovely a carcass prepared for the poor. Perhaps in one year the land will be for sale. I like this place pretty well, a few exceptions. It is certainly as healthy as any place in this State. The land is very rich well watered, high, and a good circulation of air. The place is new and of course settlers will have some difficulties to encounter. My school is good. But I do not intend to teach much longer for a living. If I can do better. I may perhaps struggle for some public station in this new world. and should I succeed I shall yield up the Rule & Penult, at least

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Rev. James B. Finley

Newtown

Ohio

Piqua Oct 29

279
191

191
25
61

for a while. Religion is reviving in this quarter
and the prospects more comfortable now than when I
came ^{to} this place. Last sabbath we had our quarterly
meeting and one among the best banquets I ever was
in. Our publick meeting was not so energetic, but no
doubt good was done. I think you would like it, ^{how} much
indeed. My soul revolts at the idea of your going to Beaver
Town, it is certainly the wrong course. I am glad that
religion revives around you, I pray that the nine days
wander, may produce a ten days rain, and that the
seed sown may yield a plentiful harvest under the
patronage of our vacillating unaccountables, as they are
called. In order to this let us always work in our own
harness, and plough with the old shear and scythe
which have ~~broken~~ cut through, and broken up so
many sinners hearts, and shorn off the weeds of our
guilty earth. I am still doing something to advance
the good cause, and hope ever to bear testimony to the
truth. I am very unsuccessful and unpopular, but still
the Lord avails my feeble attempts in some degree which
keeps me alive, both in faith and hope. I am still more
than ever anxious to spend all my time in the study of
explanations of the scriptures, but I cannot do it in my
present situation. And our Church will not give a hard
support for my family (and this would be all I should
ever ask) my way therefore is closed, I am sometimes
much tempted to join some Church that would support
me while I would devote my life to the ministry, but
I cannot yield to such a scheme of Satan. I never
have been so solitary and lonesome in all my life.
My days are spent in fruitless wishes and anticipation
your society is wanting, and I cannot live without
you. You are under obligations of importance to me
and I think you ought to fulfil part of them at
least. You ought to come and see us - But perhaps
you cannot until summer.

I would be glad to hear from brother Dean. I
pray God to show mercy unto his house - for he oft
refreshed and renewed my wasted strength. I would
be glad to see many of my old friends, but I must
content myself with reflecting on what is past
with some hope of what is to come. I have done
all I can to fix for a resting place here what will be
the issue I cannot tell. William says his uncle is gone
he has quit paounding the partition, and calling for you
and when we tell to go and call you. his answer is
he will not, for his uncle is gone. John says he never
expects to ride on the old back again, but sends much
love to his old friends, and says if Grandfather Lucas
will bring us a barrel of water he will go with him
home. It really makes me cry sometimes to hear the
children talk about you. I have some thought next
summer to come and see you, for I rather think
I shall ~~see~~ see you soon unless I do. I have not
of father ~~for~~ Mother for some time. He has been
sickly in Birmingham and as high up as Dayton.
The Presbyterian Preacher of Dayton is dead, and I think
as many as three in different places. The Reverend Pastor
of this place has been averse some time, but he
got his sickness in turn. if he does recover it
will not be before spring. Next season will be the
time to get home, come down and get rich
bring all with you that you can. This is the proudest
letter I have ever written I do believe, it is not
worth the postage. Sally joins me in sending
our best love to you. Hannah & Elizabeth
Rachel sends love to her friends. She has joined
Society again and appears much engaged. I am
and believe me to be unalterably your Bro until
death
James P. Finley
John P. Finley
I still want George to pay me without fail