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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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12-15-1818

## Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley

John P. Finley

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Piqua

December 17

Dear James B. Finley

Heubens

Ohio

Piqua December 15 1818

My dear James {

I have been looking for a letter from you for some time, but in vain I suppose you have been from home, and of course had not the opportunity. We are in good health - I am engaged in school - have scarcely time to say my prayers. I still feel the want of your company, and would rejoice much to see or hear from you frequently. I am fearful you have declined the idea of coming to see us this season, but for this I will excuse you, if you will not neglect me next year. I am with much pleasure anticipating that mutual felicity which will certainly abound when you reach this village. I am extremely anxious that you and Rev. Mr. Hurdess would take this in your way to Conference. The people indicate a solicitude for you and the Bishop to pass through which I am sure can only be satisfied by a visit from you. It is a matter of great complaint that the old Reverend has never blessed the inhabitants of this land. I want you to write him on the subject soon and if he condescends to the request I will meet you at Columbus and so conduct you to this place. I would be exceedingly rejoiced to have a visit from R. R. Robt. also should you see him request him to pass through. We want help here all that we can get. Religion is reviving all around us, Dayton, Lebanon, Cincinnati, Xenia, Urbana, Springfield but this is a barren soil, and like the Man of Macedonia to Paul, I pray you to come over and help us. I preach twice every Lord's Day and I think with more than ordinary zeal, but very little success. I am determined to persevere until the clouds burst forth in blessings on my head. My prayer is Lord let it come.

I have suffered and am still suffering for the want  
of that money that George owes me, I wonder why  
he don't pay it - I shall now make a proposal in  
this letter to him, and if he does not instantly comply  
you must really proceed against him according to law  
I propose to take what there is and in factory cloth if he  
will insure it at Cincinnati with Wesley Coleman  
You can see it put up in a box and forwarded  
You can select some of the 4, 50 cloth such as my  
great coat - say 4 yds <sup>black</sup> - some of the 4, 00 cloth say  
2 yds black - Some of the drab & grey colours, price  
\$5 & 6 per yd. together with taspinette fine & coarse, so  
as to make a little apartment. Should he comply  
with this I want you to chose a good piece to make  
Sally a coat, she wants a light blue making deep - dark  
brown or a snuff colour. I think George cannot  
insure me if I proceed against him should he refuse to  
comply, with this. However I would rather have the  
money if I can get it, If you cannot get it make  
this offer, but he must insure it at Cincinnati as  
mentioned before, I have had hard scuffling since I came  
here to get along with my family - but I hope for better  
times - I am tempted should I live to see Steubenville again  
I would be glad to see Sutherland Lucas Howell Dorsey  
Hawkins Johnston Hales Andrews England and many  
others. Tell Michael Johnston I want him to write home a  
receipt for liquid shoe blacking such as you were  
accustomed to have in the stone bottle, and you send  
in your next letter - We have class meeting at my  
house every Friday at twelve and seldom go away  
without a blessing - I feel more than ever  
determined to preach and live the Gospel, and I hope  
the time will yet come when I shall preach daily  
blessed be God I still breathe a missionary spirit

This letter is barely written, caused by my right hand  
being so affected with a Rheumatism

I like this place very well and would like it  
much better if we had more religion amongst us  
It is cheaper living here than at Steubenville  
Wheat is 25 cents Wheat 75 cents 20 Pork 3 1/2 & 4 for lb  
Beef 2 1/2 & 3 cents, firewood cost me about 50 cents for  
cord &c Nothing yet known concerning the treaty  
Many are preparing to snatch up all the good land  
Tell Mr. Dean that he will have a good chance  
soon and to prepare himself I have seen some  
of our friends lately Bro. Haugh and family  
Bro. Samuel and family - Father I understand  
has moved to Old Chellecothe - Bro. William has  
moved to New Landan - I got a letter from  
Isaac Strane by last Mail, he has settled at  
New Landan, and is doing good business in his line  
Remember my respects to you and Mrs.  
Do my business with George, get the money  
if possible, if not get the goods as directed and  
you will be good boy, Your boy William is  
the finest boy I ever saw, but I believe he  
has forgotten you - John says he misses the  
Rev. Finley - We all join in sending our  
best love to you and our dear sister Hannah  
and cousin Elizabeth - Sally wishes very  
much that you were all here, I am and  
believe me to be forever yours John Finley  
James Finley

Rachel sends love to her friends she is now  
living at John Johnston's - she has joined  
society and is doing well  
Write as soon as you can