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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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11-15-1821

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

John P. Finley

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My dear James

Piqua Nov 15th 1821

On last evening I received yours dated 1<sup>st</sup> inst which is the first I have received from you since banishment. We have again been visited with great afflictions. Sally has been scourged with the fever but has recovered. Eliza - Elizabeth and William have had the Ague for ten weeks. Elizabeth has escaped her's for three days past. Eliza's still continues and William is so reduced that he can scarcely walk or even stand upon his feet. You talk of hard times but I think you know too little about difficulties when compared to what I have passed through. A large helpless family afflicted for years, and no way for support, only by the proceeds of a school, which if it were collected is incompetent to one half of my necessary demands. I have never been so straitened to get along in my life. I have not even a decent seal to appear in public with, and I find no one in this part who appears to be born under the plow of beneficence and go in debt I will not. I am not honored with a seat in the Legislature this year. The party spirit in this county is too strong for any one to be elected from this part. I acquiesce in this as being providential. I am now teaching a small school but do not intend staying long here unless I can get a better support. I preach as much as ever, and feel more of the spirit and perhaps am more engaged than you ever knew me. I feel more like leaving wife, children, houses, lands in a scripture sense than I ever did, and I sometimes think that all my afflictions are in consequence of disobedience in this respect. It is thought that bro. S. will not make so good an Elder as was expected. We know nothing of our D. C. until one week before the time, and some parts of the Circuit will not know that is past until two weeks after unless by accident. Father and family are doing pretty well, and are well provided for, and if Dobbin's account takes care father will take the Crowd from him. Dobbin's has much wind and a great deal about him. This in care. I do not think that he will be an itinerant long, unless he in future is full some nearer the leaves and fishes. I would now give considerable to see you, but for an interview I cannot hope soon. I was recently moved to say something in defense of our Church Government occasioned by the sayings of a travelling - alias - Notnight. I saw a person you know had such liberty and power in my life, it appeared to me that I should speak all languages, and if the fable says that Neptune still the waves by moving his trident over the sea, so I can say with unresistible arguments, and the legend of Jephthah I pushed the raging of these tumultuous Anarchists.



Dear Love to all the Missionary family - Sally sends  
 love to Hannah especially - I cannot tell how much  
 I love others before you, but have reason to doubt the  
 great sincerity of your love for us - or you would have  
 written to us sooner - Mitchell still continues to cut  
 up his flug dogs amongst us - Mr McLean has no  
 love for me or mine - If these are a sample of the  
 Lebanonians, I hope that God will ever keep a running  
 stream between us - W McLean appears to be clever  
 Do not let Hannah see or hear this - All your friends  
 want you back in the district again  
 Love James B Finley John P Finley

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 Mr Do Love James B Finley  
 Missionary - Wm  
 3 January  
 J. P.