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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

1-12-1825

Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley

John P. Finley

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wretched place, but some of the descendants of
Finley may be incorporated with beasts. Kentucky
people in general do not look higher than a corn
hill, nor further than the negro's house, or haggard.

I write wickedly - I am well
Jan 13 Finley

183

Aug 20 1833
Finley

Rev James B Finley

Upper Sandusky

Ohio

August 12th 1825

Finley

Augusta Ky Jan 12th 1825

Bro James

When I look at the date of your last letter
I wonder that I have not answered you before this time
But my long silence, has not been owing, to a less esteem
for you; it can only be apologised for, by saying that
a crowd of business has prevented. I have had middling
health since the beginning of winter - have been able to attend
to the duties of my station. Sally has poor health, and
is declining fast, she cannot last many years, unless
an alteration. I am praying every day that she may
be preserved - but there is one consolation - she enjoys
daily the depths, and heights of redeeming love. The
children are growing up to men and women. James
is full of faith, and holy fire, and I think will yet
make something more than a Printer. I am here
but not satisfied, although I can make a living
for my family, and am well received as a teacher
yet I cannot endure the idea of my family settling
among the negroes. This is a subject I cannot touch
with ease of mind, therefore I dismiss it for
the present. I have sent a line to bro Pearson of
Urbana informing him that I would shortly send
a prospectus for a newspaper in that village, and if
I meet with encouragement, would go there to live. I
am sure I can print a paper inferior to none of the
same size in the State. If I do not move there
I am inclined to go to the new country - I am still
impressed to travel should I ever regain my health
but of this there is great doubt. The Doctor I never will
be well while I continue so sedentary a life, if my

occupation would more active, I think I would be more healthy. But I have given all to God to do with me what seemeth meet - all I want is more resignation.

I shall be over at Pequa in the Spring about April, and would be glad to see you on my journey. When you write me again please tell me how and where you will be about that time.

The College is progressing slowly tho' as fast as could be expected under existing circumstances. It is now in an advanced state of being finished, and a preparatory school is taught. How it will terminate remains yet to be known.

I have but little to write you my mind being exceedingly barren, and pressed for time I shall close by telling you, that I am still your bro in the best of Bonds.

Rev
James B. Finley
John P. Finley

We send our best love to Hannah, and hope that you will pray for us always.

If you know of any impediment that will be in my way at Urbana I want you to declare it in your next.

A few minutes ago my mind was very barren, but having laid down my pen, put a coal of fire in my pipe, and turning my eyes to the window to whiff a little; beheld a company of human beings passing along the street, struck my sight, and immediately my mind was full, and running over I inquired who they were, and found they were a family in the back country, coming to town on a visit. This I disputed, seeing they exhibited so many different colors, some ruddy - some pale - some yellow - some most white - some most black; but it was certainly the fact. They did compose one family. The old man looked very red, smoked much and drank much, and was almost ready to burst from internal passion, and set of sons, were all in the authoritative, looked pale, attended by another set of sons rather yellow hair curly - One set of Daughters like gypsies full of ignorance, and sauciness, attended by another set, pale yellow color, curly hair. A neat young man from a free country - lately adopted into this motley family, with the prospect of getting a great fortune, was with them. But he was dread deceived, when he was presented with Dolly - Kate - them and all the rest - and beheld they were sisters and half brothers of the lady he had lately to be about his house to pilfer and ruin every thing he had. After they were out of sight - I turned to the table & had enough to think upon - You said I, true Kentuckian - half horse - half Alligator - Breeds and half - White, pale, yellow, Mulatto - and black - mixt over, and over, and mixt again - A rich man indeed - give more than one half of his children to be slaves to another, and this is giving a fortune. From this view of affairs, I cry out with tears Oh my God give me wings to fly from this