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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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2-22-1825

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

John P. Finley

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Remember me to bro Hooper and family

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Augusta Ky Feb 22<sup>d</sup> 1825

My dear James

I received your letter by last mail, in which you have so liberally proposed the printing of a public journal at your Mission. Were it not, that I know you to be a close calculator, I would really think that you had dreamt, a happy dream, and had studied some very artful way, of telling it, so as to make powerful impressions on the mind, for when reading your letter, I felt an enthusiasm, unconnected with projects, of a small and inconsiderable character. If there could be matter sufficient for a weekly paper, it would be more interesting, especially in the East and South, among the friends of the mission, than any that could be produced, for amusement or real entertainment. It would obtain also, a preeminence over the matter as in other papers, on the account of its being novel, and you observe a good press well managed, would be the greatest earthly defence the mission and mission could have. If I had only received your letter one week sooner, it would have saved me of much trouble. I delayed replying to the people at Urbana until last mail - not feeling satisfied in my mind to go there, but after a long pause, seeing no other way open, I sent over about a dozen copies of a Prospectus, and should they make a subscription, that I think sufficient, I shall be

Augusta Ky  
Feb 22<sup>d</sup>

Rev J  
James B. Finley

Upper Kentucky

Chap

J B Finley  
Augusta Ky  
Feb 22<sup>d</sup> 1825



under obligation to them, if they do not, I will cordially try your proposal, I am of the opinion that the support at Urbana will not be sufficient. I have always been of this opinion, and if you will delay further operations, in regard to your paper, until this matter is ascertained, then I can proceed with you, or you can proceed without me, I will know against the first of April whether the subscription at Urbana will be sufficient or not.

The matter, that a paper printed, at your mission should contain, would be such as I would take pleasure to communicate, and such, as I think, could be made interesting to many people. James is a good workman John can almost do a journeyman's work, and I can do as much as any hand whatever, A good journeyman would have to be employed for a while, until some of your little Indians would learn the art. One great advantage arising from such an establishment would be, its tendency to excite the Indians to civilization and literature; no doubt many from different parts, would be stimulated, to follow the example of the Wyandots, to get like Missions among them. The royal size would be sufficiently large for the paper, executed on fine paper, and with large primer, and brevier type, then the work would be amiable and could be carried to any part of the United States.

Should it so eventuate, by a propitious providence that I should publish a paper, are there buildings sufficient for my family and an office, or will they have to be erected, It will take a house 24 by 20 for an office

and a considerable one for my family. All of which would have to be made very warm in your cold country. The more I reflect on the project, the better I like it, and in all probability, it would be approved by the Government. You would do well to get Gov Cass in its favor, and John Johnson tho the latter is not so important

Meet me in Urbana 16th of April if possible, and if you cannot write me on the subject.

The paper could not go into operation before next fall. Subscriptions would have to be circulated and returned, and other preparations to be made. I hope you will not mention to any other printer until I see how it will be at Urbana

We all send love to you. What I may say to you on the subject of the College in any of my letters I do not wish to be made publick - time will prove all things, and you will see how futile is the judgment of some of our great Sages, on this affair. Pray for us. I have written this letter with a very sore finger and some of it is scarcely intelligible. Yours forever

Rev James B Finley

Wyandot Chief  
Upper Sandusky

John P Finley