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James B. Finley Letters

4-3-1834

Letter from Robert W. Finley to James B. Finley

Robert W. Finley

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I received your Letter Dated Feb Feb-15. With much pleasure, Except a few Days, I have enjoyed a measureable Degree of good Health, but am still on the Decline & getting weaker, & do not think that all the Physicians in the State could direct to any thing that would contribute to my Health, as to get on wth Jack & ride a long to preach. I have rode once round Belmonts Circuit, preach about thirty times administered the sacrament twice, held or two Days meeting, stork in the great back-
~~slide~~ slider in the State, Simms has made a four weeks circuit & doing I think very little good, does not attend his appointments, has no regard to Discipline, & the people says pays more time to get people to join meeting than any ~~the~~ thing else. I can say of a truth, that my principle Dissap is ^{the} fearful appearance of the Decline of the Church of God in general, & the methodists in particular, the Pride of the present Day & the love of the world, the present professors are like those of A.D. who will shew as any good, & but few with all their heart crying Lord lift on us the light of thy Countenance.
 Your Preachers in general know ~~nothing~~ about nothing about the State of the people they have charge of, I have made my business to attend classing meetings to my satisfaction, & your Steadfast Methodist, secretly think it worth while to attend them; I have spread my whole mind before the Lord, & have come to conclusion if shew'd to the fall to retire into private life & end my days in solitude. Popularity is at this time the great & leading object of the ministry, & not a humble, meek & low Spirit, & staying from house, ^{to preach} instructing parents & children the lessons of salvation at home; And I suffer ^{all} my dear son ^{to say} you are not exempted from the complaints of many of the most pious. The language of the most pious of our ^{Church} nothing when the Lord is with us but boasting & vanity, we scarcely ever hear any thing of experimental religion, Ours for

