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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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11-19-1848

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

Robert P. Finley

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Rev James B. Finley

Calcutta

Most Obedient  
Servant



Wilmington Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 1848

Dear Uncle James

Yours of 11<sup>th</sup> Oct was duly received & afforded me much pleasure to peruse it. I was glad to learn that <sup>tho</sup> you are not in good health you are in tolerable health for one of your age. You speak of the great length of time that has elapsed since you received any communication from me. and also of doubts about my desire to do so. Hold. hold. Uncle hold. not so fast! You doubtless have relied in your past experience. that you have lived for beneath your privilege. and that doubts and unbelief have in this backslidden state come in and disquiet your mind with unpleasant forebodings. as in the past so in the present case now if I can succeed in bringing you to a knowledge of your condition. and convict you of delinquency in the discharge of duty. I shall hope for your reclamation. to the "good old way". ask & you shall receive is a most encouraging promise and one to which I would at this time pertinently direct your attention as just adapted to your present state. You speak of 3 letters you have addressed to me. and no answer. I received but one & that about as long as my finger about 3 years after I address you <sup>a</sup> long & most interesting one — the one that this is intended to be answer to is the only one for which I am indebted and if I had been as slow in my return to you as you were to me you could have complained after having a good cause for doing so. now as we Methodists rely a great deal on feeling. I would like to know how you feel. after having the truth thus forcibly brought to your view you must surely be sorry: if so that is enough here is my heart & hand with <sup>the</sup> mutual promises

to do so no more. Having cleared up this matter  
so very satisfactory to all concerned I leave  
it and wish to say in reference to my family they  
are in about usual health. I have 4 children  
living the girls you remember Fess & Jane  
Wm P Finley whom you baptized is quite a smart  
boy. Charles Elliott the youngest is near 2 years  
old a happy cheerful little fellow as you  
have seen for a men a day. but my poor Jane  
has & continues to suffer extremely with a deaf  
bark at this time she can but just walk about  
the house with the utmost difficulty. They all  
desire to be remembered to uncle James

You notice my mother & Mary have left  
for Virginia. they are gone. poor mother is  
or was quite feeble when she left has failed  
very fast for a year or two. I do not expect  
her to live long. I wish she could end her days  
happy while she lives but of this I have little hope  
will be the case long at a time. You know her  
disposition is not such as would ensure much  
pleasure enjoyment for her self or well calculate  
to promote it among her friends. tho I must say  
she is a most kind mother and good woman  
tho she & my her has become very impatient to  
them & me both for a year or two there  
was no intercourse between our families and  
finally the whole matter burst out. And now  
them. nor Mrs Kees. or Mr Peto any of them  
can call to see me at home. none of all  
that remains of my friends. Call to see me  
but Hiram & he has not broke bread in my  
house for a year or two altho no difficulty  
exists between us as he has worked for me for 3 years

So you perceive I can adopt the language of  
Lord Byron. "How you ma friends! I know but  
by Gods blessing I have not been troubled with  
them lately". Ingratitude is the sin of all and  
I have no disposition to criminate or dwell  
upon the subject. as you know something of  
them and can readily conceive how the matter  
has prepared. and you know too something  
of my love towards them for the last 15 years  
so you will be prepared to decide for your self

I suppose you will have just returned from  
home when you receive this I would like very  
much to see you all. once more. Can you not  
make it in your way to call and see us it  
would be very pleasant indeed. try. When you  
go home again give my sincere love to all  
especially to Cunt Hannah

I may conclude to  
visit your City this winter have had some notion  
of getting into the Howard ware business a little if I  
conclude to do so. I must see your man  
Hayden... but have not concluded yet -

I close by soliciting an interest in your prayers  
and subscribe my self Yours sincerely  
Rev J. B Finley R. P. Finley

N.B when you write please write particularly of  
Rev C P Williams conditions - poor Oliver