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James B. Finley Letters

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Letter from John McLean to James B. Finley

John McLean

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Gen. Land Office
John Wilson



PAID

Rev. James B. Finley

New York
Upper Sandusky Ohio

John McLenore
Esq
Jan 29
1823

Washington City

28 Jan. 1823

My dear brother,

Your welcome letter came to hand this day, and I was very much gratified to hear from you. Although this is my first letter to you since I left home, you must not conclude that I have neglected you. There has not probably been a day, since the commencement of my journey, that I have not often thought of you with affection. You are still engaged in proclaiming the glad tidings of great joy - and blessed be God, that your labours is not in vain. You encounter many pains of body and anxieties of mind. But little of ease, or self-indulgence will fall to your lot, whilst engaged in this warfare. But, how much does the joy exceed the pain. How blessed is that peace, which passes all understanding. Your trials, though waiting to the body, invigorate the soul. Remember, that the path you travel will shine brighter and brighter, until it shall end in the effulgence of everlasting glory. I trust that you will be abundantly prospered, so that in the great and coming day, you ^{will} have many seasons of rejoicing. Liable of my own unfaithfulness, I ~~feel~~ that I am the least of all, the most unworthy, but my trust is in God, and him will I commend to you. Religion is upon the whole, advancing in this place in our societies. Among the other elders, there seems

to be but little done.

I will attend to your wishes with great pleasure, but believe the Bishop is mistaken, as to the appointment. In a day or two, I will see Mr Calhoun on the subject and will inform you.

My time has been most actively employed in the duties of my office since my arrival. I found much to do, and trust that my unceasing exertions will give general satisfaction. The President, very frequently, gives me the highest evidences of his confidence, and in many respects, my situation here is agreeable. If my family were here, and some of my friends and neighbors, I should be content and happy.

I regret the circumstance you mention of an old friend. His sons I presume must have urged him to come out as a candidate. The result could not but injure his usefulness, had he been successful. The injury cannot be much less, though there was a failure, and to this is added, extreme mortification.

I find that the Ohio members of the Legislature have nominated Mr Clay for President. In doing this, they have acted rashly, and should it be considered as pledging the State, it will very much destroy her influence in the great contest. No nomination should have been made this winter, as many important changes will probably take place before the election. Clay, I have no doubt, will pursue a correct policy as it respects western interests, but there are exceptions to him, which I think, will have great influence with the better portion of our citizens. Calhoun is as friendly

as Clay can possibly be, to every measure, in regard to roads and canals, and domestic manufactures, for the promotion of which, Ohio feels a deep interest. In my opinion, his talents are decidedly superior to Clays, and his character is very amiable. This latter consideration, should have some influence on the public mind.

Remember me affectionately to Sister Hindley & Sister Brook. Cease not to remember me at a throne of grace,

Rev. James D. Finley

May you be ever blessed

John McLean