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James B. Finley Letters

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9-27-1824

## Letter from John McLean to James B. Finley

John McLean

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John McLean  
Sept 29 1824

George Town

29 Sept. 1824

My dear Brother,

I have delayed answering  
your letter until now, under the expectation  
that Mr Shaw would resign his appointment.  
He has not yet done so, but I presume he  
will shortly, as I presume he can have  
no inducement to remain at Sandusky,  
now that he remains in the agency no longer.  
So soon as a vacancy occurs, I shall  
appoint Wm Walker. I could not, without  
cause, remove Mr Shaw. Changes in this manner  
are not made, without strong ground  
of objection against the incumbent, which  
goes to show, that he is unworthy of  
public confidence.

Mr Johnston, of Piqua, will not be removed  
from his agency, though some things have  
been done by him, in exchanges of  
money, which the Secretary of War cannot  
approve. This, however does not impeach



his integrity, and was nothing more, than was generally practiced by such agents.

Mrs McLean's health, though delicate, has been generally better the past summer, and this fall, than it was last season. Harriet is severely afflicted with her breast, and I am afraid that the <sup>complaint</sup> ~~affection~~ may result in a pulmonary affection. She is under the care of our family physician, and some good ~~effects~~ have been produced by the medicine she has taken.

The presidential question still agitates the country, and I am glad that it must soon draw to a close. I hope that the voice of the people may prevail over political intrigues. With such a result, I shall be content.

A few years hence it will be of small importance to us, personally, how such things are determined. And now that we are in life, and feel a deep interest in them, we find more perplexity and

disappointment, than satisfaction. Solid happiness is rarely found in political strife.

We often think and talk of you and your Indians. Nothing could gratify me more, than frequently to mingle in your family circle. With what pleasure could I be seated at your fire side, and talk of things past and to come. Mountains separate us, and we may never enjoy this pleasing gratification. All our earthly enjoyments are fleeting. They pass, and are as a dream. But there is an Eternity before us. Ah, my brother, how soon must this Eternity be ours? May we be prepared for all its solemn realities.

Remember me and mine at a throne of grace. Mrs McLean, Harriet, and the girls, send their love to sister Kinley and yourself.

Ever yours  
Rev. James B. Kinley

John McLean