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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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4-22-1826

## Letter from John McLean to James B. Finley

John McLean

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Washington City

22 April 1826

My dear friend,

I hope before the reception of this you will have recovered your usual health. Mrs McLean has been afflicted with a cold for some weeks past, but is now better - the rest of my family enjoy their usual health.

Congress have had a long session and have not passed many laws, though the members have spoken much. Great excitement exists, and I fear that there is little ground to hope, that there will be less. To witness the many drawbacks on personal happiness, that all must experience who engage in political life, is almost enough to discourage the most adventurous politician. The most successful in this course, find that it is planted with thorns, and that power poorly compensates its possession for the daily sacrifices of fatigue which he is required to make.

I hope to be able to visit Ohio the ensuing

Rev. James B. Finley

near Lebanon Ohio

John McLean

Mrs McLean  
Dr M E



and it would add greatly to the pleasure of my visit, if I should find you and your family at Ridgville. I have seen nothing since I left Ohio, that has, in the least degree, deepened my attachment for her. The scenes at this place are brilliant and captivating to many - to me they have but few attractions. And yet, I am as ambitious as any one should be, and perhaps more so, than comforts with my substantial interests, to be somewhat conspicuous.

How soon must all these scenes pass away, and leave little but disappointment and regret. After all, there is no pursuit to be compared to the Christian's - there are no enjoyments like his. Whilst the enjoyments of others fade and disappear, his ripen by age, and become perfect through suffering. I wish to travel this road, and to end my journey in this manner. Soon, very soon, my dear Binley, must you and I and our relatives and friends, give way, to those who come after us. The fact is no less solemn than true. May our heavenly Father assist us in our endeavours to serve him, and

at last receive us to live with him forever.  
All the family join me in the most affectionate remembrance to you & yours.

Ever & sincerely yours

Rev. James Binley.

John McLean

I have re-established the O at Post  
Ball.