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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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2-7-1830

## Letter from John McLean to James B. Finley

John McLean

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Washington

7 Feb 1830

My dear brother,

My heart yet bleeds every moment for the loss of my lovely boy. Every time I walk out, I pass along streets that he used to walk, and by the friendly roofs which used to shelter him. I see the school house where his early promise brightened my hopes. Every place that he frequented inspires an interest to me, which language cannot describe. But he is gone and my fond hopes are never to be realized. My heart sinks within me at this chilling reflection.

The evening before I left Cincinnati, I called at Bro Smiths, to ask the favour of him to accompany me to the ~~relating~~ mansion which contained the remains of this dear child. He was not in, and I was informed that he had gone to a funeral. I then directed my course to the house of death. If I failed to procure admittance into the vault, I was resolved to linger about its ~~interior~~ gloomy walls.

It was near the dusk of evening - every thing appeared to bear the aspect of sorrow. The walk was silent and gloomy. I stood at

John McLean

Cincinnati  
Ohio

Rev. James B. Finley

Pa D Q 5





the gate until daylight had nearly disappeared.  
An effort was necessary to drag myself away.  
Will you my dear Mr ask Mr Smith, the first con-  
venient time he enters the vault, to look at my  
sweet boy, and do you write me how he ap-  
pears. I do not wish him interred until  
my return next month. And if it should then  
be proper, I wish to see him.

If so great a change has taken place that  
it would not be proper, for me to see him, I  
must wait until I go to him.

This lovely child engrossed my affections in  
an extraordinary manner. At home and  
abroad, he occupied much of my thoughts.  
I scarcely ever looked at him or thought of  
him, without feeling a glow of affection, not  
unfrequently mingled with a trembling appre-  
hension, that he might be taken from me.

O God, give me resignation to thy will.

I avoid society this winter, not having accepted  
any invitation since my arrival at Washington.

Mrs McLean, Mr & Mrs Weed, nearly three weeks ago  
went to Philadelphia and have not yet returned.

Mr Durbin is here, and is a very popular preach-  
er. I hope the bill will pass giving a township  
of land to the Augusta College. It has been  
reported in the Senate and, I think, will undoubtedly

pass that body.

I find things here much as I expected to find  
them. There is great dissatisfaction and apprehension  
felt by many. Time will show the result.

Sincerely & truly yours

John McLean

Rev. James B. Hinley