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James B. Finley Letters

1-23-1831

Letter from John McLean to James B. Finley

John McLean

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Washington

23 Jan 7. 1831

My dear Bro,

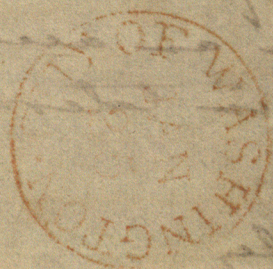
I have received your favour and was rejoiced to hear of the prospects of the church in Cincinnati, and especially that our friend Mr Hoff had cast his lot among us. He will be sustained, I have no doubt, by our heavenly father. His companion will advance rapidly in her celestial journey. I feel great interest in their behalf.

Mr Wirt, the late Attorney General of the U States, lately lost a favourite daughter, who surpassed his whole race, as my beloved Willy did mine. His loss he sustained with fortitude, but it has brought him to a course of serious reflection.

Yesterday, as I was riding to the British Ministers to dinner, in company with Mr Peters, of Philadelphia, who is the reporter of the Supreme Court, he observed that he had had, a day or two before, a long conversation with Mr Wirt. He talked in such a way said Mr Peters, as to cause the tears to flow from my eyes like rain.

Mr Wirt observed to him that it was only the thought of again meeting his angelic daughter, in blissful eternity, which rendered her loss at all supportable. That the sweet serenity under which she suffered, and the confidence with which she looked to her Redeemer, left no doubt as to

Judge of Peace
1831 East Wirt
Daughter



Rev James B Finley

Cincinnati
Ohio

23

her future happiness. Indeed she departed in triumph. Neither her father nor mother were professors of religion. He now thinks deeply upon the subject. I intend to have a long conversation on the subject, with him, and shall try and get him into a local feast, if we shall have one, before the adjournment of the Cauc.

I am sorry to hear that Mr Burke is taking a course that may lessen him in the affections of the church. So long as there shall be ground for ^{any} hope, of his regaining what he has ~~lost~~ lost, do not despair.

In what mercy does our heavenly father look at our many imperfections. He bears with us, and still offers to do us good.

I hope you will call at the Post office and get my papers and read them, and indeed I hope you have done this, without any answer from me.

There is much division and uncertainty here, in the political world. A meeting was lately called, in Philadelphia, with a view of presenting my name before the Caucatory, in the event of Gen. Jackson's declining. Some alarm very to have been excited, and the Gen was immediately announced as a candidate for reelection. I am strongly solicited to run for Vice President, by many, and by others, to run for the other office.

I shall not reach either office, but may decline, unless I shall be convinced that my duty points out the road, and that I may be the instrument of doing more good, than in my present position.

Our race, at best, will soon be over, and it should be our main object in life, so to live as we shall rejoice to have done, when we come to give an account of our stewardship. Mrs Weed is in tolerable health, also Mrs McLean -

Very truly yours
John McLean

Res. James D. Finley

I enclose \$20 which, I believe, is the amount my subscription for the new meeting house.