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1-14-1831

Letter from Thomas A. Morris to James B. Finley

Thomas A. Morris

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Recommended Citation

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Columbus, Ohio. Jan. 14th 1831.

My dear Mr.

In the satisfactory answer which you sent to my former letter you make mention of numerous big folks as presenting rather an appalling front: we have a few of the same kind of cattle here; and I find the easiest method with them is to give them, frequently, what they generally need, namely, a severe pulpit mauling. The brethren have probably misread it in selecting Doubting Thomas for this place; if a man would a pep earnestly thunder all among the worldly wise of Columbus, he should seek to be well versed in the modern etiquette of a learned ministry; he should learn to rise above the honest simplicity of Paul & Peter; learn to call hard things by soft names; and how to docton, statemen, and all of the fastidious of the day with the sprightliness of a Frenchman. Whoever I am such a rascal as to return no expressions of studied & formal politeness; so indulgent to the rich & great as not to lower the standards of moral discipline to prosecute them; so rude as to call crimes by their proper names, even in the pulpit; and so much of a "whole hog" Methodist as to decline all the deceitful amalgamations of aspiring Unitarian parties: the consequence of all which is, I am getting my name up among the victims of refined folly, as well as those of high handed wickedness - hence, we can still them in substance that the Devil has a hole of late

Wm
J. Morris

Rev. Amos A. Sturges,
Cincinnati, Ohio.
Wm
J. Morris

of them is leading them the downward road. Since I came here
I have been obliged to publish a second protest against the use which the
Presbyterians were making of my late name in their American B. S. tracts
money to carry on their own designs of manufacturing, sending out, and
selling their swarms of green horned missionaries in the Mississippi Valley.
The next scrape I got into was about the Christmas frolics; those
accounting officers for the Davis, Tawit, the managers of the Cat-gut
party sent tickets, out of more devilment, to a large number of our
Church members to attend a dancing party on Christmas Eve; the
next Sunday night. I let off a full charged Kentucky horse
at them, to which the London fire of 1839 was a mere squib. Since
then they are not only mad themselves, but are trying to raise the steam
by getting others to help them be mad. However, thank God my
beams are all whole yet. What the end of all these things will be I do not
know. I shall ever see and this year or not God only knows. There is a
peculiar work before me; for I am determined to let loose an an-gambling
house, whiskey shops, and all sorts of Devilism, neer or nothing; and you
know, how few we have to help us in such expedition. Corporations,
firmness, perseverance, long suffering & courage to fight the good fight of
faith and win the prize of glory. I have the pleasure to hear by
you are
bro. Lewis that you are doing well in the City may abound more
& more. I think I can say without boasting that I have talked hard

since conference, in the pulpit and out, yet we have caught but little.
Our net increase being a little over 20 up to this date. Amidst strong
outward opposition thank God we have several peace in our little
 Zion. Our health is comfortable, and generally my spirits are fine; but
sometimes I groan for deliverance, being burdened; and then it seems
to afford some relief to open my mind to a distant friend, as I am
in the habit of saying but little about troubles among the people
of my charge. Please to excuse all the Chattering I have with you.

as one with whom I have been in a few small skirmishes ~~with~~
against the enemies of the Cross. We have had one g. m. Pap
Cession attended as large as life and with as much fire as a boy
of 19. The atmosphere of the surrounding Circuit appears to be new
calm, and the preaching I believe are better satisfied than at the
first, and are doing tolerably well. My family self wish to be
committed to Sister Finley, and accept for yourself our best wishes.
My love to the preacher.

Adieu. Adieu.

Rev. J. B. Finley.

Wm. A. Morris.