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James B. Finley Letters

4-17-1846

Letter from A.W. Musgrove to James B. Finley

A.W. Musgrove

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Recd of W. W. W. W. W.

Apr 21

Ansured

Lithopolis O
April 17th

Ansured
April 21 1846

Rev James Q Finley
Columbus
Ohio

No 133 - Box 5

Lithopolis 17 April 1846

Rev James Q Finley
Dear Brother

having a moment
leisure I embrace it to inform you that him that
loved you once loves you still, and although not
able to solve the problem of your long silence.
I am resolved still to cherish the man whom former
kind acts have taught me to revere. if a cold
world treats me with indifference I regard it as
a common occurrence. if a hollow hearted
admirer ceases to flutter I consider it as a timely
deliverance from his hypocritical pretensions.
but when one that I have long since regarded as
a second father seems to have forgotten me, a feeling
of melancholy steals over the heart known only to
those who suffer it. to you six years ago I pledged the
most sacred confidence of a confiding spirit.
not that I expected to reap temporal emolument
from ~~that~~ ^{your} ~~kind~~ ^{goodness} your goodness allowed me to
make. I did it from the conviction that you were
worthy of the estimate I put upon you. and I
thank heaven I was not mistaken, you may remember
what I said to you in my room at Oxford
shortly after the death of my Father the words were

well Brother Finley I have no father but you
and your kind answer has ever since been deeply
engraved on the tablet of my sometimes lonely heart.
from that moment I regarded you ~~as my father~~
~~light~~ only in the light of a Father, and though
unworthy of such a place in your affections still
it affords me a secret pleasure to know that
you allow me that place. Since I saw you at
Marietta one short letter is all that I have received
from you. and that being written in a hurry
you forgot to tell me where to write to you.
I should have written to you frequently but never
wishing to be troublesome and not knowing
where a letter would find you I neglected it
perhaps to long. you ask what in your letter
what you have done to forfeit my friendship
while you remain a Christian you can do nothing
to forfeit it. and I take pleasure in thinking
that as you are now stationed at Columbus
I shall have the opportunity of proving to you
that my affection is unchanged. I hope you
will write to me soon for if you knew how I
was gratified in receiving your note at
Rondsburg you would certainly write more
frequently. I hope your health is good. in your
answer please tell me the state of your wife's health
and also that of Brother Brooke and family

before I close I must congratulate you on the
high dignity conferred upon you to wit.
Moral Instructor of the Ohio Penitentiary
who would have thought that the Presiding Elder
of Zanesville district would have been
sentenced to the Penitentiary. and that to
to perform the hardest kind of labour, viz.
the conversion of Rogues & Rascals. hoping that
you have been called in the providence of God
to this work. I trust your success will be as
abundant as your labours are hard, hoping
to hear from you soon and requesting a
remembrance in your prayers I must close
please accept the best wishes of a
sincere friend

A. W. Musgrave

Rev James G. Finley