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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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1-7-1847

### Letter from Adam Poe to James B. Finley

Adam Poe

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Mansfield Jan'y 7<sup>th</sup> 1847

My dear brother Finley

I am requested by the afflicted father the unfortunate Robt M. Bowland to write to you; as it is supposed that he will soon be taken to the Penitentiary. The sheriff for some reason does not inform him or his friends when he will take him. I wish to say to you again that Bowland is an intelligent man, and though he has been guilty perhaps of licentiousness to some extent, and addicted to sprees of intoxication, and now guilty of the homicide of his brother-in-law I find it the general expression of the more credible portion of this community (where he has lived since 1827. when he was a small boy) to the present time with the exception of the period which he served in the U.S. Navy, that he has ever been honest, and that his veracity is undoubted, further that he has been peaceable and inoffensive when sober. He has professed to experience religion since his confinement in Jail. I have visited him often have conversed with often and freely and have as good evidence I think as could be given under the circumstances that his profession is sincere and intelligent. His health is poor I suppose from long confinement, and intense anxiety of mind, together with a rather feeble, and perhaps somewhat broken constitution he has been severely afflicted for sometime past with palpitation of the heart. I would request you to inform Col. Dewey, and Dr. Guard of these facts and give us your aid if consistent to place poor Robert in a position that may be congenial with his broken health, and not utterly crush his already afflicted and sensitive spirit. You may hear a different report of his character from that which I give, as he of course has enemies in this community, where his unfortunate <sup>victim</sup> had many friends and I believe deserved them too.

Recd  
H. O. W.  
Jan 1847



Rev Amos A. Finley  
Columbus  
Ohio

PAID





But I would just say I have known him since 1834  
and I have been acquainted with his father and  
mother since I was a boy of 10 years of age myself  
and have full confidence in making the statements  
I do. Bro. Bartley has known him too and knew more  
about the circumstances that have led to his present  
sorrowful and degraded position than I did.

Dr. Guard and Col. <sup>Dewey</sup> will remember the conversation  
which I had with <sup>them</sup> on this subject, and what they allowed  
me to communicate to his father in reference to his  
probable position and treatment in the prison.

It has been reported that he refused the commutation  
this is not true, he received it humbly & gratefully.

He goes blood stained & degraded as he is from ~~any~~  
his prison here to your ministerial charge with  
a <sup>mind</sup> capable of apprehending and I think a spirit to  
appreciate and improve your instructions & prayers.  
May God bless him, with the other unfortunates in  
your pastoral care, and give you from among them  
many stars in the crown of your rejoicing.

With sentiments of Christian and personal  
esteem I subscribe myself Affly Yrs.  
A. H. C.