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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

4-4-1847

Letter from William P. Tripp to James B. Finley

William P. Tripp

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and it would be throughing good money
 a way in attempting to get it in my
 present situation as far as they rest
 I have never heard of them since
 & how I am & how, been for now 24 years
 & how likely to be had I have a whole sack
 rasher I would have been out of this long
 ago But with money many friends & they
 poor on aspinia & how I have to wash & hold
 for a set of Seamanes who never had good
 in all their thoughts & on running about
 from state to state to obtain prison labour
 for compensation nothing when they can
 find one & someone give you who possib better
 butings & better principals than ever they proposed
 up for these very animals I have to be that we
 have to labour for with out the slightest
 expectation of ever seeing the face of
 those I hold more & dear Respectfully
 Submitted
 William P. Wells

Rev. J. B. Finley

W. D. Phelps
 June 1847
 1065

Rev. James B. Finley April 4 - 1847 -
 I have had it in contemplation for some time
 to give you a full & truthful detail of facts
 relative to my imprisonment when I arrived at
 Cincinnati I took Boarding with Ephron
 Sanas on front St. Between Walnut & over there
 I contracted an acquaintance with (Wells a
 Boarder) they another set in intensely severe Prison
 broken over I was compelled to stay some weeks
 while there (Wells) prevailed on me to loan him some
 money upon they promise to pay me when came on
 I consented to loan him \$125 when he found
 out how I intended to dispose of my money he
 introduced me to Messrs Garrison & Dally
 Grassers I become familiar with them I visited
 the store read their papers conversed on mercantile
 matters &c In the course of conversation they
 found out that I intended to take home some
 groceries invited me to purchase of them upon
 a pledge that I should have them as cheap
 as could be had in the city I concluded to do so
 a few days after Mr. Garrison came on me
 at Boarding house stating he wished to raise
 a considerable sum of money & if I could I would
 advance him what I thought I would take up
 in goods It would be a great favour & he loaned
 him \$65 - in the presence of two Quakeres
 not doubting But I would obtain the goods when
 called for - when they were opened I wished to
 return observe to (Wells) that I wished to go home
 & wanted my money But could not get one
 cent intimating how they money was laid out
 & that it was a profitable concern showing me
 some new Books & Buis speaking largely of they
 profits arising from it & to take hold with
 them I saw at once my money was gone
 & was determined upon recompence I studied
 upon they most Lascivious system & when I
 had matured my plans I addressed a letter
 to James Doffin informing him that I wished

a Private Interview with him & wished
a sealed answer when & where I took my letter
& gave it to Mr Smith at Mayors office to
hand to said Soffin when he come in
about eleven o'clock on they next day I received his
answer to meet him at 12 Bung in pursuit
of some thieves he failed to meet me at
they appointed time on Monday afternoon
going up Main to 5th & across to they horse
market in company with Henry Weaver he
espied I - Soffin with several others at a store
across opposite they prison house ^{Weaver} saying you are
a that son of a Bitch saying things of on a
large scale I asked him who he meant
that he spoke so harsh of Jim Soffin they
looked at was his reply I requested him to point him
out so that I would know him he done so -
Soffin & others was pointing to Horse market very
much Weaver was uneasy said there was something
wrong that he would take through a back alley
and leave as he had much counterfeit money with
him when he left I went back to prison house
& there stood until Soffin & 2 others left from
they directions they took I supposed they would
go to Mayors office I took a new cut through
they alley which enters 3rd at corner of they
office & presently they turned corner up to they
office I went a few yds & met them gave
Soffin a look which he understood & he fell back
I told him who I was & I wanted a private talk
go said he up alley & in back door I will be
there presently he come I gave him they names
of many their occupation & my reasons for asking
it he said he knew several of them but could
never reach them I told him I had many
plans that would reach them all with his
assistance But this was not a place suitable
as there were many passing to & fro he said
he had much to attend to & we would postpone
until 8 o'clock Saturday evening in they office then
would be no one present & he would have a
good few & every necessary preparation

Unfortunately for me I was taken violently sick that
night and a remainder in bed under medical
attention for 2 weeks & in they meantime took one
of they very invalids that I named to him and
said a plot which sent me to this prison they
whole movements are well worth recording But how not
got paper to spare from other matter & can tell
you that verbally they coroners attorney (Mr
Charles Bruff & Mr Parker they say for will upon
presentation of this letter Tell you that it is count
Mr Bruff stated to Mr Parker that he never felt as
much reluctance in prosecuting a man in
his life Dr McEvone told they Judge that my
apprehension in said ~~case~~ was more like
a chrytion & a Gentlemen than a rascal Mr
Bruff told me he would write to Gov. Johnson they
whole circumstances Mr Parker wrote to Gen Patterson
to put me to some tight work if it was in his power
& that I should not stay here over 1 year if he could
help it I had 3 interviews with Mr Bruff & they
last was offer I was sentenced he then stated
he would write to the Gov as he recommended
But found it would not have that effect
that he could wish as he had just let
Gen McDaniel out and they thought
was much concerned & he wrote a very
severe letter to they Gov. and he was very
highly offended - Mr Parker said Governor
& said & provided that I had a sum of them
\$65 which I was to have had in goods &
they said him By denying being in
partnership

I am a little to fast I should have stated that
I gave him an order on them for \$25
(this was some 2 or 3 weeks after I was put in Jail) they
denied knowing any thing of me But held on
to they man until he threatened to smother there heads
for them when they discovered Lewis Baird
about it they gave it up Mr Parker said
he was well satisfied that they knew me &
had my money that they were a good
set of rascals & had they apprehended
me & would keep it