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James B. Finley Letters

5-24-1847

Letter from Laurin Dewey to James B. Finley

Laurin Dewey

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Recommended Citation

Dewey, Laurin, "Letter from Laurin Dewey to James B. Finley" (1847). *Finley Letters*. 1058.
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Rev. James B. Fendley
Georgetown
Ohio.

RECEIVED
MAY 26 1867

James Dewey
Member of the Ohio
Constitution June
1867

Ohio Penitentiary
May 24. 1867.

Dear Father Fendley:
Your favor of the 17th came to hand on the 18th, and ought to have been answered sooner, but when you remember the multiplicity of my cares at this time I trust you will excuse me.
Mr. Dewey has returned, but not in very good health. Other than, we are all in excellent health and spirits. Nothing new has occurred since you left. The new shops are going up rapidly. Indeed now, you would hardly suspect we had ever had a fire. The docks are already up to the second story. A portion of the roof will go up to-morrow, and I expect Mr. Hordley will begin to move in the latter part of the week. We have suffered a great calamity, but I trust it will have a proper influence upon our minds. It will teach us humility, and learn us more than ever to trust in the Divine arm. Oh! how uncertain are earthly hopes, and earthly possessions! I have endeavored to be vigilant and watchful, but the elements have been more than my equal, and the institution under my charge has suffered at a time and at a point, I little suspected. But I have no one to blame. It was one of those providences which frequently

