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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

9-27-1847

Letter from John McDonald to James B. Finley

John McDonald

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Latta 24
Sep. 28th

Rev James B Finley
Columbus
Ohio

608
Dexter Midge -
Sept 1847

1083

Poplar Ridge, near Latta, Ross county Ohio, Sept 27th 1847
My old and long tried J B Finley
your letter of the 25th of last month came duly to hand. A few lines from my old friend always gives me pleasure. I am gratified to learn through the news papers, that your deportment in the state prison is highly admired by the directors of the institution, and the public generally. I knew that whatever business you engaged in, your whole strength would put to work. I believe (perhaps it is prejudice) that the old pioneer stock, possessed more perseverance and energy in any thing they undertook, than the generation who are now succeeding them. The old pioneers had to begin as it were a new world from the stump. blaze their paths through the unbroken forest, build their camps, or erect their miserable log cabins and drawing their subsistence from the woods: and then following in their trail the itinerant preachers, proclaiming in a voice that caused the ears of the hearer to tingle the good news that Jehovah had proclaimed peace and good will towards men. The pioneers had indeed a hard and precarious lot in the world; but they successfully met and overcame all their privations and difficulties, with a patience and cheerfulness ~~unexampled~~ ^{unexampled} perhaps in the history of the world.

Such a work as you are engaged in is much needed, and will be more valued 500 years hence, than at present. The morals of the pioneers were not so refined so artificial, as the present generation. Their practice in moral was that of nature and consisted in doing good to their fellow man. To feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit and relieve the fatherless and the widow. Indeed their hospitality and kindness was only limited by their means to accommodate.

I have kept a regular correspondence, with our mutual friend Mr. Marley. He is a strong common sense writer, and should ^{use} his pen more freely than he does. I hold him in high esteem. I have the late sermon book, by all the methodist preachers. I was gratified to see that my two old cronies J B F and M Marley were among the best, if not the very best in the book. Mr. Marley's sermon is a learned and strong one, but ^{he} wrote on a subject abstruse and mysterious, but has explained the subject he treats on with as much ^{fact} as it will bear. The subject you chose for your sermon, you have finished, without indulging in mystery. all is plain sailing. Every ^{one} who reads your discourse be they learned or ignorant, understands you, and ^{what} is more to your credit ^{all} will approve it, whether they practice your instructions or not.

you request me to lend you some aid in ^{your} proposed literary work. I have ^{been} trying my recollection, ever since I received your letter, to see if I could not find some thing in my old store house, that might be of some use to you; but I find the old store house is empty, every thing in it, that would be of any use to you has ^{been} drawn out. I have written and had published in the Scioto Gazette a sketch of Captain the Shawnee chief, the essay is addressed to Lyman G. Draper of Baltimore - This sketch includes what is known of John Cushman. you were mistaken in supposing that it was Cherokee. Com that killed John Cushman, it Captain ^{John} who killed both John Cushman and Cherokee Tom.

