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James B. Finley Letters

9-30-1847

Letter from P.G. Gest to James B. Finley

P.G. Gest

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Hennepin Sept 30th 1845

Dear Sir;

I have under arrest
Nelson, one of the persons referred to by
Mr & Johnson (of whom you wrote me last
summer) as being implicated in the murder
of Aaron at this place in August 1845.

I wish you to inform me by re-
turn mail whether Johnson still adheres to
his former statement, under what name
he was in the jail at Cincinnati in
September 1845; from what County, for what
offence & for how long a time he was sent
to the Penitentiary. You will not let
Johnson know that Nelson is arrested. Also
inform me whether Johnson & Whitcomb ever
had an opportunity to confer together
in prison before he made his statement

to you.

Although the circumstances apart
from Johnsons statement are strong against
Johnson Robinson, yet they will do little
towards conviction. Johnsons position is such
that his evidence will give but little weight,
& I want to test its truth thoroughly before I
permit it to be brought to bear upon Robinson,
as I think it as much my duty to protect
the innocent, as to convict the guilty

Yours

J. G. Fair

Pres. Atty

Rev. W. B. Fendley

NB

Mr Dewey will answer this if Mr Fendley
is about 9.