

6-1-1848

Letter from William G. Mattis to James B. Finley

William G. Mattis

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Dayton June 1848

Dear Father Findley I sit down to write to you upon a subject
of Deep interest and feeling and know you will deeply sympathize
with me on the present occasion you will find as you have the care
of the penitentiary as chaplain to it you will ^{find} a boy there By the
name of Isaac N. Mattis which has unfortunately By getting
with a bad Boy was induced to do bad also with him and he turned
states evidence against my child and is sentenced for one
years confinement in the penitentiary What I want you to
do for me is that you would take special charge of my child
and Brother I know you (feel for others) and you feel as a
father I do Brother Findley do in the name the good
Being try to impress upon his now tender mind the importance
of seeking forgiveness of sins and finding peace with god I
have strove to sow the good seed in his heart and I do
Believe that I shall yet see the fruit of my labour I have
never been doubtful at that for he has been a child of
many prayers and tears you will find also that he is in
very Bad health I wish you would please look to it and
see that the child is not put to harder labour than his
health will permit I have a prospect of getting him
repeived I will send the petition up to columbus this
week I saw the govenor in cincinnati last week
O Brother tell my child that his father yett loves him
tell him you got a letter from me try incourage the
Boy to Bear up under his present affliction and resolve to
do better you will not find a hardened Boy But rather
ignorant willing to be lead which has been one
reason of his being where he is anytime you see fit to write
to me concerning the child it will be thankfully received
the child feels alone and wants a friend tell him know
that you are his friend if you does right and you being
a methodist may go a great way to win him in favour of
the same of which I am a member I think if the Boy could get out
he would do better if can use you in fluence to with govenor for him
William J Mattis

W J McArthur
Dayton
Netherlands June 28



Rev James B Finley
Columbus Ohio

Chaplin to the
penitentiary