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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

8-13-1848

Letter from J.V. McElvaine to James B. Finley

J.V. McElvaine

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Ohio Penitentiary
May 13th 1848

Dear Father Smiley I have just been shown
your very welcome epistle to Col Hewes
and am happy to hear that you are in
the enjoyment of better health than when
you passed through our city on your way
to Conference. As to matters here in
the Penitentiary we are in our usual quiet-
ness and nothing has occurred worthy of note
that be of interest to you or your absence.

Your desk has been full, and I believe
satisfactorily, filled by those gentlemen you
designated before you left home.

We have just received a small addition
to our family from Cincinnati (7 in number)
amongst whom is the notorious Green M.
Houlden, among the 3^d convicts.

I regret that I am compelled to notice
the death of my Uncle (Rudolph) and
likewise Capt Bradford's daughter Mrs
Smiley. The inmates of this Institution enjoy
very general health, as well as Col & family
with the exception of his son Henry who is
now indisposed. We are doing with your
labors of Christianity, and love, for our
depressed and fallen race, and you

John
McClain
May 4th 48

favor extended your fields of active opera-
tion to the more darkened corners of the
earth we shall be most happy in welcome
-may you back to dispense aid to our infor-
tunate family both inside & out of Church
& prison.

Col Newey desires to be men-
tioned & will write you in a day or two
upon Church & State. During your sojourn
I hope you may find leisure to call
on Wilson & Whitwell enquire there is
now or ever has been a man confined
in that Institution by name of Thomas
Johnson once a highly respectable citizen
of our city.

Be assured of my high
regard & esteem
Your friend

J. W. Brown