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James B. Finley Letters

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Letter from H.S. Thomas to James B. Finley

H.S. Thomas

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New Albany August 20th 42

Brother Finley

Since I visited Germantown in com-
-pany with Brother Cappington lecturing on the Temperance
Cause, & since I saw you in the city, I have traveled a great
deal & labored hard but with general success, but I don't
know that at any time ~~past~~ I have felt more gratified than
when you signed the pledge. We are anxious to succeed and we
feel the importance in the help of our Religious, they did not
treat us Right in Germantown, I was sorry Brother Brooks
did not sign. I know you were aware of my "infidelity" and
Scepticism, well notwithstanding the stubborn selfishness
of many Religious people would have a tendency to strengthen
them, the course pursued by most prospering toward our
Cause, shook the sandy foundation of my rotten faith, - I
have seen the finger of God in this glorious reformation, I
resolved to abandon all my errors and take an interest
in Christ, while traveling alone in Indiana I came the
conclusion to attach myself to the church I had la-
-bored to persecute above all others, but which I really
in my serious moments loved the best, I gave my name
to the Ministers at Brookville forming a resolution at
the same time to labour hard for the salvation of my soul



Rev. James W. Finley
Germantown
Montgomery Co.
Ohio

Mr. J. Thomas

I now feel a great interest for the welfare of the young associates of Mine that reside in Warren County, and my object in writing now to you is to say that all depends upon what kind of men are sent there as Ministers by the next conference of your Society if the right kind are sent a great work can be done, but it must not be such men as Stroud he has done more harm than good; he must be a good, affable, plain man, intelligent, and not abusive to other people, argumentative though not dull; two such men as Brother McDowell could do wonders they are now ripe for the Cause of God if a correct course is pursued. In reflecting upon the past, I feel that if God would sanctify my soul, and I was properly prepared, I could save the strong holds of Hell's Kingdom in Clear Creek Township I know I could, I know them like a Book. I have frequently been solicited to prepare myself to become a regular lecturer on infidelity, and several times while in the city, to investigate the doctrine of Universalism; and now I am told by friends that I should prepare myself to become a labourer in the field of Christ; it would be my theme and delight, I feel so anxious for the redemption of my friends and all mankind, and I would have advantages that ^{but} few have, but I cannot hope, I must settle in life and am to meet to anticipate anything of the kind, but must work all the time for a lively hood. But enough of this, I hope you will be active in regard to Springfield, Universalism has taken a strong hold there, and it is but the first step to infidelity, do your duty then and all may yet be well.

The Cause of God is wonderfully prospering in the West, it is making bold and rapid strides in the wake of this glorious Temperance Reform, and why should Clear Creek Township be behind. A protracted meeting was in progress ~~while I~~ at Madison while I was there, and in addition to about 300 members that Brother Daily had obtained in the new church during five months I saw men then coming to God; in Louisville a protracted meeting of the regular Baptist Church was doing a great work. And here, since the reformation began hundreds have been added to the different churches. The new school Protestants have just held a camp meeting here, they had a glorious time, on the evening before it closed there were 103 mourners went to the anxious benches, a large number obtained a hope, a goodly number became members of the church there, others retired to their homes promising to connect themselves with some one church at their respective places of abode. The meeting is still in progress in this place and a greater work is yet to be done. Dr. Beecher has been with them all the time, they proffered me a home at their meeting if I would go, I went and was treated as a Brother and it has been an advantage to my soul; I am on my way to Illinois, expect to be back the first part of October, the cause of Temperance is onward; I pray for my souls welfare and I remain

Rev. J. B. Finley

As ever yours
H. S. Thomas