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James B. Finley Letters

4-8-1847

Letter from George Johnson to James B. Finley

George Johnson

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Rev. Bro. Finley:-

Fort Wayne 8th April 1847

You will doubtless recollect our stage coach acquaintance which we made in February last, and the promise you exacted of me to write to you when I should succeed in establishing a Division of the Sons of Temperance in this place. I now have it my power to fulfil that promise. On yesterday I, as Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch, organized "Fort Wayne Division No 63." Being the only member of the Order here I had to work with entirely raw material and experienced some considerable difficulty in getting the brethren to work correctly; but after some three or four hours training they all understood their parts very well. I was elected W.P. of the Division and was installed by a Special Deputy. The G.W.P. fearing I would be elected to that office provided against the contingency of having no authority to install me, and forwarded a blank, Special Deputy's commission which I afterwards filled with the name of one of the brethren who performed the duty assigned him therein. We are going to do much good in this place. A more favorable time for starting a Division could not have been selected. On last Monday - the day of our Spring election - in accordance with a recent statute a vote was taken as to whether licenses should hereafter be granted to keep "Droggers" or not and the "No License" carried by a majority of over three hundred. I carried your message to Mr. Anderson and he says that after his present license expires he will keep no liquor at all to sell or give away. I shall endeavor to get him into our Division. You must not be astonished if you hear of the establishment of a second No. here before a year. I shall be much pleased to hear from you and if convenient please write me.

Yours in L. P. & F.

George Johnson

G. Johnson April 8
1857

Answered 15 - April