

Ohio Wesleyan University

Digital Commons @ OWU

Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

10-6-1849

Letter from Edward B. Stevens to James B. Finley

Edward B. Stevens

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters>

Recommended Citation

Stevens, Edward B., "Letter from Edward B. Stevens to James B. Finley" (1849). *Finley Letters*. 1182.
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters/1182>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.

Monroe - Butler County - Ohio, October 6th 1899.

Bro J. B. Finley; Grand Worthy Patriarch;

I will endeavor to make as brief a report as circumstances will permit - not to trespass on your time more than necessary. I have delayed this communication a few days beyond the Rule - owing to the fact that although appointed during the preceding Quarterly term my Commission was not received until a few weeks ago, and I was not very familiar with my field of work. —

My Charge is Monroe Divis: 281. & Amanda Divis: 457. —

The Quarterly Returns to the Grand Scribe exhibit the condition of these two Divisions as to relative numbers - income - financial resources etc: I will only add at this time that both contain some of the salt of the earth - the "true & faithful" workers of the order. Through the Region embraced in this Charge, as in common with all that part of the State I fear - there is a prevailing apathy in the entire cause of temperance: I do not think there is a backsliding to older things - but a sorry sort of indifference to the success of our principles. I think much - very much - of this is from an apparent want of any point to strike at - we can easily work men into the order - & reclaim them temporarily from the cup - but the devil has 10 agents fastened & protected by law to every agency of our order - and the contest becomes too unequal - hence our men seeing the fruits of their labors so often become weary - that they are disheartened & without wonder. —

I think then we must introduce some agency to labor for a Reformation of our Laws - we must be alone to have a voice in the sale of liquor before we can really effect much. — Such is certainly the presentation of temperance affairs with us. —

206 Still I cannot agree with those hasty ones who say - the "Order has accomplished its mission" — There is the same field of work and it seems to me we can accomplish good in the same way. — Have we not grown a little bolder in action? — Some of us.

Nevertheless I think we might introduce many features that would add interest to the Indoor work. — Many are attracted within our Division Rooms by the glamour of Mystery, and do not find enough to gratify their curiosity & hence are easily dissatisfied with the work. —

A closer attention to the beautiful ceremonial usages of our order will
increase the interest & consequently the utility of our order. — As
much as most of divisions have individual Deputies, I have thought to
suggest an interchange of officers: — Thus — in divisions A, B, C, & D let
a Brother of A or B. officiate as Deputy in C & D, & vice versa = arrangement
of such a character however should of course be made with reference to Contiguity,
but you have often seen as I have that Sub. Divisions are more gratified
more attentive & more improved by the official visit of a brother not in
ordinary attendance in the Divis. Room. —

I look to ^{the} universal dissemination of temperance ^{tracts} amongst our entire
Community, in accordance with the suggestions of Bro. H. Greely, — as an
object of the grandest importance: I look anxiously for tract No. 1. of
that Series. —

May the Great Patriarch above give us all more grace
patience and fidelity in this great cause of all mankind.

accept my best wishes for your personal welfare —

Yours in the Cause

Edward B. Stevens.

{ D. G. W. P. for

Mourner & Amasa.

Butter Co. }

Edward B. Stevens
D. G. W. P. for
Mourner & Amasa
Butter Co.