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James B. Finley Letters

1-5-1831

Letter from Stephen G. Roszel to James B. Finley

Stephen G. Roszel

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My dear Brother

Baltimore

1210

June 5th 1831

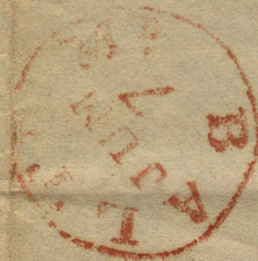
I did hope that it would have been my privilege to have been with you at your Camp meeting this season, but many things seems to forbid it, and one not the least, is the want of means to meet my expenses; It is however a pleasing gratification to me that if denied the pleasure of seeing you, I can converse with you by letter, a blessing highly to be prized, and one that may be employed, to our mutual edification, and the good prosperity and safety of the Church;

I was a visitor at the last session of the Philadelphia Conference, and from all I can learn it is the intention of our Eastern brethren to bring forward the Old Presiding Elder question at the ensuing General Conference, and if possible effect a change in our Ecclesiastical polity. Hence their delegates will all be selected in direct reference to that point, this gaind they will fill the Episcopal Chair with men of their own political stamp, prepared to act agreeable to their views, You will readily discover this if you will look at the delegates returned from the New York Conference as published in the Advocate & Journal; they could not after all their professed friendship to Bro. Waugh at the last General Conference trust him far enough to elect him to the ensuing General Conference, Doctor Hall is now in this City, just from the New York Conference he informs me that the only reason why he Bro. Waugh was not elected, was that he could not support their measures; With such evidence before us, it is a

Thos
Steele & Crosby

Cincinnati
Ohio

Rev James B. Finley



duty incumbent on us and all Old side Methodists to stand in our Watch Tower, and as far as we can preserve our well tried and proven Bible, Ecclesiastical polity, In no period of our history as a people, would a change in our government ~~do~~ have done us so great an injury. If our eastern brethren effect the change they wish in the Presiding Eldership Radicalism in all its parts as a legitimate consequence must follow, then farewell to an effective energetic ~~them~~ and this I think must be obvious to every Old Methodist preacher attached to our Episcopal Government;

Alarming as appearances are, I still think if we are wise and prudent the evil may be averted and our Holy Arts saved. We should know the men we send to the Genl Conference, we should not hazard a doubtful case, let every delegate, be from established Old Wesleyan Methodist who know, love and approve of our Church Government, and who will not in the least degree countenance an attraction in our general system.

As you love the cause and Church of God, I do confidently hope you will attend to this business in your Conference, and that you will write to Brethren of standing and influence in the different Western Conferences, shewing them the great necessity of sending none to the Genl Conference, but Old Side Men firm and established;

Was it proper. I could most sincerely wish I could see you, that we might converse more fully on the great interest of our Zion, but as I have not this privilege at present. I must be resigned, in addressing you in print on those subjects by letter

not doubting but you will do all you can to prevent innovations in our Church. I shall be much gratified in receiving a letter from you on the receipt of this,

Praying that the great head of the Church may be with you and yours at all times, and bless you with every need and want blessing. I am dear Bro., yours in love

P.S. I think it unfortunate that Bishop Hedding instead of Bishop Soul, visits the western ~~conferences~~ and Southern Conferences this year a hint is enough, this in confidence

Stephen G. Noyes

Roszel_ab1210

Baltimore June 5th 1831

My dear Brother,

I did hope that it would have been my privilege to have been with you at your camp meeting this season, but many things seemed to forbid it, and one not the least, is the want of means to meet my expences; It is however a pleasing gratification to me that if denied the pleasure of seeing you I can converse with you by letter, a blessing highly to be prized, and one that may be employed to our mutual edification, and the good prosperity and safety of the church.

I was a visitor at the last session of the Philadelphia Conference and from all I can learn it is the intention of our eastern brethren to bring forward the Old Presiding Elder question at the ensuing General Conference, and if possible effect a change in our ecclesiastical polity. Hence their delegates will all be selected in direct reference to that point, this gain'd they will fill the Episcopal Chair with men of their own political stamp, prepared to act agreeable to their views. You will readily discover this if you will look at the delegates returned from the New York Conference as published in the Advocate & Journal. They could not after all their professed friendship to Bro. Waugh at the last General Conference trust him far enough to elect him to the ensuing General Conference. Doctor Hall is now in this city, just from the New York Conference. He informed me that the only reason why Bro. Waugh was not elected, was that he could support their measures; With such evidence before us, it is a duty incumbent on us and all old side Methodists to stand in our watch tower, and as far as we can preserve our well tried and Heaven Blest Ecclesiastical polity. In no period of our history as a people, would a change in our government have done us so great an injury. If our eastern brethren effect the change wish in the Presiding Eldership, Radicalism in all its parts as a legitimate consequence must follow, then farewell to an effective energetic itinerancy. This I think must be obvious to any old Methodist preacher attached to our Episcopal Government.

Alarming as appearances are, I still think if we are wise and prudent the evil may be averted and our Holy Ark saved. We should know the men we send to the Gen'l Conference. We should not hazard a doubtful case. Let every delegate be a firm established old Wesleyan Methodist who know, love, and approve of our Church Government, and who will not in the least degree countenance an alteration in our general system.

As you love the cause and Church of God, I do confidently hope you will attend to this business in your conference, and that you will write to brethren of standing and influence in the different western conferences, shewing them the great necessity of sending none to the Gen'l Conference but old side men firm and established;

Was it proper, I could most sincerely wish I could see you, that we might converse more fully on the great interest of our Zion, but as I have not this privilege at present, I must be resigned in addressing you in part on those subjects by letter not doubting but you will do all you can to prevent innovations in our Church. I shall be much gratified in receiving a letter from you on the receipt of this.

Praying that the great head of the Church may be with you and yours at all times, and bless you with any needed and wanted blessing. I am dear Bro. yours in love

Stephen G. Roszel

P.S. I think it unfortunate that Bishop Hedding instead of Bishop Soule, visits the western and southern conferences this year. A hint is enough, this in confidence.