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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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8-19-1851

## Letter from Edgar Conkling to James B. Finley

Edgar Conkling

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and not more ready to stand or fall.  
to say nothing of the God given right  
more contented for - large & important  
principles, and involved. By the  
popular view, the Bishops are involved  
also, in allowing the rights of Membership  
trampled on - they have sought to sustain  
themselves by reason at first having no  
foundation - which if at first worthy have  
since all vanished. Should you be  
then I must put you up in some  
points I want you to understand &  
present to Bishops why they should  
at once assume their prerogatives  
& settle the question on the heads of this  
Conference - in haste your friend  
& supporter

Edgar Conkling

Concord August 19 1887

Father Lindley

Sometimes since I had the  
pleasure of receiving a letter from you, was glad  
to hear from you and was in hope that either  
before or during my absence from the city  
of a few weeks, having just returned, you  
would have preached for us. how you will find  
it convenient to do so before Conference  
we need all the encouragement that a persecuted  
people are worthy of. I have been out to Illinois  
Knox, Chicago &c. heard your article in  
N.E. Advocate spoken highly of. Parker has  
hurt himself by his ultra opinions he is not  
sustained. Cambridge Union Chapel is well  
known. it has friends without number. Among ministers  
& people, almost without exception, they say, if it  
does, may they are entitled at least to a  
disciplinary treatment, and depriving them of  
the Gospel is not disciplinary, that some  
spirit actuating a man to preach never  
dictates the treatment we receive. This Conference  
action is an illegal, but admitting it legal  
it is plain it is only legal on those within its  
bounds, not without. Hence Dayton & Springfield  
must not be supplied which Union Chapel  
without the bounds of N.E. Church. Unorganized



has not cannot officially make known what it  
will do about getting as under its organization  
numerous accessions will take place. and what  
the choice of those present may be under  
different circumstances our Bishop & this  
Conference have no right to determine &  
prejudge & apply to us even its legal action  
they must await for the official report of the  
preacher sent and allow him only to  
apply the discipline on us after it is  
officially determined what our course is  
but no ~~more~~ <sup>way</sup> would our course be so penal  
as to deprive us wholesale of the Gospel  
I suggest some points for your consideration  
please digest them, and prepare them  
for your coming Conference. it must be  
compelled to act by discipline; or rather least  
insubordination to be dealt with by Preacher  
sent. we shall not appeal to this Conference  
again. we have adopted the Ch. E. Discipline  
from guide & stand ready for the Bishop's  
concern or report us - we are amenable to  
invitation of last Conference are to wait  
settling or sending ~~us~~ <sup>ours</sup> & above action of next  
General Conference; the Ohio Conference  
guiding we succeeded did repudiate her  
own solemn Agreement a moral violation  
of religious contract. we cannot treat with it  
again. we know the detriment of all the Church