

12-19-1836

## Letter from J.A. Reeder to James B. Finley

J.A. Reeder

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Eaton, C. Monday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 1836 1214

Br. Finley, my friend -

I am sorry to hear of your illness -

Our G. M. Commencement on last Friday evening, but the snow being deep, and more falling, the congregation was but small to what it would have been, provided the weather had been pleasant - we however, had some intimations of good - I tried to preach, as there was but few present, and next day we expected our P. B. Eleaner, on Saturday rolled round, & at the time we were anxiously looking for J. B. F. to a letter - I opened it, and my eagerness would have induced me to have read 2 or 3 lines at a glance - but so it was & so it had to be - he was sick, & we were disappointed, and after getting a little over our own misfortune, we began to feel a little sorry for him, and while the leader of the public devotions offered a petition in behalf of our afflicted P. B., a great number of annuities arose from the brethren - There surely is some friendship in religion - I tried to preach again, after sermon the G. M. Conf. was called, & every thing passed on harmoniously, and I believe to the satisfaction of all present - Br. Pieson of Camden, preached sat night and Sunday morn, we had an excellent breakfast - all that spoke, spoke short & very feelingly, and in quick succession; and we had a word of prayer - at the close, we had several shouts, and nearly all in the house wept - but as the weather was extremely cold, & the people would be coming to the public meeting, & would suffer by standing in the cold, I brought it to a timely close - Br. Courcy preached at 11

had 6

Eaton C  
24 Dec 1836

Wm. B. Finley, Minister of the Gospel  
Piquette  
Warren

1214

after a collection of \$9.41 was lifted, the congregation dismissed (not with a closing prayer) and the Lord's supper administered. ~~So~~ <sup>the</sup> afternoon a goodly number collected in my house and we had a blessed time - a time of power; from which, as from the general good feeling enjoyed in the congregation, I thought we would have a good time at night - but the house was much crowded, and made entirely too warm; I became very sick, & had to leave the house, giving charge to Bro Courcy. - Br Seem (another local preacher) preached and Br Winter exhorted: ~~but~~ all appeared to be awfully checked by the state of the atmosphere of our warm house -

I think we can safely say much good was done though, but 2 members were rebeld. - The Local Pre, Exhortors, class leaders &c were generally much quickened, & I urged them to carry the holy fire with them; and I now pray the Lord to scatter it round the circuit -

The societies in my charge, are generally in good order, 6 church trials have taken place, which ended in the expulsion of one, for immoral conduct; and one laid aside for a breach of our rules. One dead - 14 removed - 17 = Recd, on trial, & by certificate 33 - net increase for the yr - 16

The stewards very readily agreed to your prop<sup>s</sup> of \$7. per yr and have made distributions accordingly, but do not know how to get it to you unless we send it by mail & this may be uncertain we lost some by mail

lately, which makes us fearful. If you wish to call for it at the book room, on my account, I would pay it in 4 weeks, as at that time, I calculated to call, or send to that establishment -

I would be very glad to hear from you soon - and also many of the friends will enquire for you - send soon & if you wish the money sent by mail, it shall be done for thank it is in my hands for you -

Respectfully yours

J. H. Rice

P.S.

On reviewing your letter, I discover that you have requested <sup>the money</sup> to be sent to you by letter, directed to Ridgeville - According to the instructions of Br Recording Steward (J. Chamber) I enclose \$5, leaving a balance due you, of \$2,

Fail not to write soon

Our yr returns were deficient: 8 societies, on account of bad roads & weather &c did not send in. Next Dr M at Mt Carmel Mo. is 4 miles this side Paris - J. H. R.