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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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## Letter from Adam Sellers to James B. Finley

Adam Sellers

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home. But on that occasion he put up with Doct. Stevens and spent most of his time with Elliott and his Pet Wais - only dining and spending a few hours with us. I supposed at the time that my stern opposition to his sending Wais to Lebanon, had some influence on his feelings. In my opposition I said among other things, that any man who had his brains so far back in his head that he could not get his hat down behind would not suit Lebanon. This Wais soon found out after he came here through a certain Doctor you will hear some thing about at Conference, and I have no doubt was the grounds of his <sup>(Wais)</sup> crusade against me. The little time Walker was with us was all engrossed by him in talking about Pew-promiscuous sitting - general Conference - and the plans that were laid to defeat his election &c &c. I name those things to you confidentially that we may understand how many eggs are in the nest and the better understand how to stir it. I think if charges were preferred against Wais at Conference and Moody, Elliott, and Walker were called upon to testify we should smell the Skunk. If you have any additional light, or any thing new to suggest write soon I shall be glad to hear from you at any time, and if you pass this way, you will meet with a warm reception at our house.

Yours truly  
A. Sellars

Lebanon March 3<sup>d</sup> 1852.

Rev. J. B. Finley -

Respected Father -

Your kind letter came to hand to day and was like oil to my wounded spirits. I need all the sympathy and encouragement I can get from my old friends in this the day of my calamity. It is truly a dark day. I never knew the meaning of the word expelled before. After having been a member nearly 28 years and all that time standing up faithfully in the defence and support of the Church and her Ministers to be expelled by such a Man as Wais, and by such corrupt influences has well nigh overwhelmed me. But Providence may have some design in overruling it for good. I am assured by all the Preachers acquainted with the particulars of the case that the Conference will rectify the mistakes and rebuke the wickedness of those men. One who stands high in your estimation writes to me that if I can get the whole matter fairly before the Conference Doctors & Wais will look like small fry. I believe with you that there are enough Men in the Ohio Conference good and true to do me justice - altho Wais and his friends tell it round that the Conference will kick my appeal out of door, and the Radicals catch up such slanders and howl over it, for they feast on such Devils' Vision, and go in the strength of it on any days



I have finished writing the history of my trial, but it multiplied so on my hands that I have concluded to rewrite it. I will give you a full history of it soon.

Since I wrote to you I found out that those tickets were printed at the Star Office in this place!! I got it on this wise. There is living and in practice here a Doctor Fisher one of the most perfect gentlemen that I have been acquainted with. We have been frequently together in practice and he has manifested a warm attachment to me. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Sometime since he and I were called to see brother James Conney's daughter, and in the long ride there and back in my Buggy he asked me for a history of my expulsion - he having heard many and contradictory statements about it. I gave him a fair unvarnished statement of all the facts in the case. He was perfectly shocked at the injustice done me, but said there was no redress, for such was Davis and Elliott's influence in the Conference that I could do nothing with it. I had heard that Radical slang so often that I knew how to meet it. Knowing that he had a half brother living with him, who worked in the Printing office, I <sup>subsequently</sup> sought an interview with him and gave him a history of those tickets - the items I was in possession of - that some of the most eminent Men in the Conference had desired me to permit the matter out, and I thought he might ascertain through his step brother <sup>whether they were printed at the Star Office</sup>. If he would, I would

pledge myself upon the honour of a gentleman that he should not be involved in it or by it in any way. He readily assented, and said that if they were printed there he would find out. On Monday last I met with him again and he told me that when he named the thing to his step brother he told him at once that they were printed there and he worked on the job. He then requested him to look up some of the tickets as I had desired him to do, but when Denney found out what he was at he told him there must be a stop put to that, - that there was Masonic secrecy about that thing. Then the matter ended. You see how the thing stands & how I am pledged. That pledge must not be violated. I only name it to you, in confidence, for further advice. I have written to Bro. Bonticue to try and find out from the P. Master - his brother-in-law - of Waynsville who mailed the package sent to Moody. I have just written to brother Herr. I have also written to the brother in your town, but as I could not make out his name I shall inclose it in this with a request for you to forward it to him.

Just before Conference, or a few weeks before, I heard a letter from Moody to Doct. Elliott read containing a list of names that they had agreed on in their end of the <sup>Conference</sup> to <sup>run</sup> as delegates to General Conference, and wished an expulsion from this end of the Conference. About the same time Walker spent some days here. He and I have been intimate for 26 years and for the last 17 years he has made our house his