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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

8-3-1852

Letter from Adam Sellers to James B. Finley

Adam Sellers

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to feel under some obligations to me, but I could not learn where he stood. I got brother Cornell to pump him at Genl. Conf. but all he could get out of him was "it is a rich affair & Lebanon a cursed place". About three weeks ago brother John Bietney and family were on a visit to ~~Springfield~~ and Moody spent an afternoon with them at Johns Hattus and was very solicitous to get a history of the affair from him, and sent me word that I must not fail to come up with all the papers and give him a history of it for he intended to give me his best licks. I thought his influence of sufficient importance to justify the trip. I did not say say tickets to him or he to me. Meakley & Strickland were surprised at that as they had some intimations that a proposition would be made to burn all the proceedings in my case and quit. I told them I should not burn incense at that altar. There may be some trick behind the screen. I think I shall smell the Rat about as soon as they get it singd. As I am in for this ticket affair, truth & righteousness demands that I get all the facts I can. Bro. Strickland told me that bro. Inskip made two efforts to get the ticket & letter of bro. D. D. Harrison & failed. I do not know what Davis wrote to you, but I know that he surmises some things & then guesses at others and when it suits his purpose he states them as facts. Let me hear from you when convenient. Before Conf. at least. Give me all the light you can gather. Yours truly A. Sellus

Lebanon Augt. 3: 1852.

(Rev. J. B. Finley -

Respected Father -

Your last letter was duly received, and I was more than ever astonished at the declarations of Davis to you, and was half inclined to believe that you must have mistook his statements. But I do not know why I should have been so I have long since had demonstration that he is capable of saying or doing any thing. If the old Heatham was right when he said "whom the gods intend to destroy, they first make mad" may we not infer that they may with the same facility make them blind?

It looks strange that a man who has had such clear intimations of difficulty should not be more cautious about what he puts on paper? I cannot account for it in any other way than the clear indications I now have that Providence intends he shall develop his character. This is the only light I can see my own difficulties in. Providence intended to use me as an instrument in bringing to light the true character of the corrupt man. Oh! Father Finley that place is too sacred for such men. If that is the design I should be willing to drink the cup, altho the waters are bitter. I know and feel that my own imperfections and short coming deserve the rod

but for them I think our heavenly Father will apply it in a different way.

Upon the receipt of your letter I wrote to Bro. Weston, who informs me that he called on both printers and that no tickets were printed in either Office, and he will get their certificates before Conf.

I again called on Mr. Denney, of our paper, to see whether he was still willing to give testimony, and found that he was, but he spoke with much more reserve than formerly. Dairis, almost, sleeps with him. He now says that he cannot recollect at this distant day, whether Dairis' name was on the ticket he printed or not!! But he did print a lot for him - & that Dairis showed him one as a sample, making an alteration in a few names, but whom he does not recollect - and that ticket Dairis said he got from Hillsborough - and that is all he knows about it. I did not show him the ticket I had yet. I showed it to Young Mr. Fisher - brother of Doct. Fishers - referred to in my former letter. He has left the office and is now working on his brother's farm 2 miles from town, for his health. He is a very upright and intelligent young man. He says the ticket looks like their type and he is pretty certain it is the one they printed. He took the ticket to make some comparisons when he went to the office. Walker told bro. Council at Boston

that Dairis could prove himself clear in the ticket affair - Council says "May be so"! If he can I think it is more than Walker can do in reference to himself. How is Dairis to clear himself from his contradictory statements about them? I think there were several involved in it and if they all get out they will have to go on the principal of swearing one another out. I was told a few days ago that Morrow of Franklin County wrote to J. W. Clark and proposed that he would get some tickets printed and put Clark's name on if Clark would get some printed and put his name on. Shame on such Methodist Preachers.

C. Brooks wrote to me from Boston, informing me that he had 16 of those tickets and the letter that contained them, that were at my service if I wished to use them in ferreting out the authors.

I wrote for them immediately after Conf. but have not heard from them. I told brothers Strickland and Meakly of the circumstance a few days since in Springfield and they replied I would not get them. They did not say on what they justified their declaration and I did not have time to interrogate them, as just at the time the Car on which I was to leave arrived at the Depot & Strickland also for Day two.

The object of my visit to Springfield was to see Moody. I stood by him in his Lebanon storm, and it may be I saved him from some trouble for he is impetuous. At least I thought he ought