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Letter from James B. Finley to Wright & Swormstedt

James B. Finley

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one thing in your last letter which to consider and which is in reference to my saying that
Bishop Green had promised to help and I read them the other two had and not as Mr. More would it know this summer I would try to
give him now only to say to incline you can imagine your own judgment
about the Mother I will not insist on your
brevity my esteem if you think it wrong
and yet I am willing to comply with the
request of the committee Bishop on behalf
of Borne all the expense of it himself and
We have made an agreement that if you
Do not we will go in partnership and
publish it ourselves. We will go together to
upholding this or some or the idea will
permit but this would perfectly understand
that for want of a yard of text of the
encyclopedia of the American Indians with
their literature & traditions of nature, American
Customs & languages the idea of the
saw this is a work that cannot be
done in a week, month or perhaps a year
Your expectation in this manner to a certain degree
Do become the me to express it June that I
go now certainly was going to send your lists as if for some time presently I would undertake
the following at your suggestion and
will give your best for all your day but will
thank you when must have some more honestly
expressed I hope this divine to follow with
you or any other person but My feeling was
wounded very much and I know of my Notes
may to do them to Succeed as much and
before again for I mean to keep still to
England

This evening I received yours of the 21 inst and only have to say in reply that when I received your former communication was much excited at the _____ for it was so unexpected, and my temperemnt is warm at the hottest times and having been afflicted & serious I might have misconstrued your meaning and as Mother allways makes an act virtuous or criminal you might not have intended what I supposed yours hinted at. And as it respects mine I handedly acknowledge some things I did intend to hurt your feelings, and on more reflection I believe it was not right and had been better let allone for soft words allways turneth away wrath. And now if you will be satisfied I will take back what you think is so exeptonable. But still to my understanding there is something strange in your doubts & fier. You do know that it has been allways the decided opinion of Soule, Morris & the Ohio Annual Conference and the Book Committee and your own, that the Cincinnati Concern is not subordinated to the New York Book Concern but a cooperative one and has all the powers to act that they have. I took your letter & road through the rain to Lebanon and showed it to Bishop Soule and he did not hesitate to say that he had no doubt but that you had the same powers to act in the case that the N. York Concern had. And this thing I understood was settled as it respects the opinion of the West. This was the ground of my assertion.

I have read the Discipline again at your request and more confirmed than ever that my former opinions are the fact in the case and I never expect to change them and as we had acted on this principle it seemed very strange that in this single case after Bishop Soules strong recommendation (and he doesn’t recommend things until he is persuaded they are legal) the Committee and Editors and yourself (I did not know that you had drafted the Resolution) all agreeing that it was all perfectly understood and that there was no room to doubt on my part that it was a covenant made in good faith.

Your expression respecting its immediate forthcoming for the press to me seemed to imply that it was as lovly wrote as some obituary notice but still I felt it to be a herculean task, a general history of the Western Indians with their _____ & subduction of nations. Tradition, customs, language for the Wyandotts and the Mission. For this is a work that cannot be done in a week, month or perhaps a year. Your expressions in reference to a western tour did seem to me to indicate a fier that I for no purpose was going to extend your cost for some dole curiosity, would undertake such a journey at your expense. And now I give you credit for all you say but still think your letter might have been more softly expressed. I have no desire to fallout with you or any other person but my feelings were wounded very much and I know of no better way to do then to scratch all out and begin again for I never harber ill will to any one.

One thing in your last letter I wish to correct and this in reference to my saying that Bishop Morris had promised to help me. I said the other two had and that as Br. Morris would [be] at home this summer I would try to get home. I have now only to say, in conclusion, you can exercise your own judgments
about the matter. I will not insist on your bearing my expenses if you think it wrong. And yet I am willing to comply with the request of the Committee. Bishop Soule offered to beare all the expense of it himself and we have made an agreement that if you do not we go in partnership and publish it ourselves. We will go together to Upper Sandusky as soon as the woods will permit. But this I want perfectly understood that I will take my own time and use what means I think necessary to make the work compleat. It would grate depravity in me to wish to spend the funds of the Church unnecessarilly. I never have done it and I have been trusted with Thomson, of their cash, but at the same time I want to live as well as others in supply.

I now close by saying that a state of suspense to me is allways disagreeable and as soon as you can conveniantly I would like to know wheather you will sustain the expense of the work or not-- and I hope you will have the cherity to believe me when I say that I am sincerely your friend and not your enemy allthough I do sometimes say some things that had better be left unsaid and I hope my Merciful and Omnipotent Judge will overlook this as an infirmity for it is one of my nature. Please remember [me] to Brs Elliott & Hamline and to all friends and enemies.

Your _______

JB Finley

Messrs Wright & Swormstedt