Letter from John F. Wright & L. Swormstedt to James B. Finley

John F. Wright

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Sister Fenley,

Sears of the 2nd inst were received a few days since, but constant press of business has prevented our acknowledging it until now. We have very little light to shed to communicate on the subject to which you refer. Whoever may have the right you refer, whoever may have the right, you refer, whether we have the right, you refer, we are quite certain we have not.

We are quite certain there are prospects as a business transaction, and we had been authorized by the book committee to contract with you for a specific amount of materials to make a book, or for the manuscript copy. We have been prepared for publication, and we might have been authorized to enter into the negotiation and make such a contract with you as might have been done.

Conclude your by mutual agreement.

But as the case now stands it must be incompatible with various contracting and may be a source of some uncertainty. We hope the subject is ad

P.S. We have the liberty to add that you call the book committee together (as a majority of them and have a distinct and explicit under
Standing in regard to this subject do you enter upon your journey, we make this suggestion that we may adjust it satisfactorily to all concerns. A few miles will not be the Case if you proceed to imagine the fee paid out of the funds of the concern.

You know it is very desirable to have that book brought into market as early as possible. And for ourselves we can see no necessity for any journey for you to make except the one to Canada which will be sure to give an opportunity of obtaining much important information which will have a direct bearing on the work. As to notions and writing other than the Wyandot, all that might be necessary of their history might be copied. Collected from mouth to mouth, I think it probable after a more mature reflection you will find a journey to the far west beyond the Mississippi unnecessary to the object, had in view.

The map is subject at home.

The first of April or perhaps sooner, he would have some time we would suppose to assist you in arranging and revising your manuscript copy of your work. Have any part in repository? Perhaps if you come down you may see him there.

Respectfully,

Wright Edwards.

1. Have the agents of the Western Book concern authorize the sale of this book containing to apply the funds of the company to purchase of the map copy any new works? Do you think the right to publish such a work without the license of the "General Book Award" a violation of our contract?
Brother Finley,

Yours of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} inst was received a few days since but constant press of business has prevented our acknowledging it until now. We have very little light to communicate on the subject to which you refer. Whoever may have the right to estimate what may be necessary to pay for your house rent, fuel, and table expenses, we are quite certain we have not.

If the matter were presented as a business transaction, and we had been advised by the Book Committee to contract with you for a specific amount of materials to make a book, or for the manuscript copy made ready and prepared for publication, we might have been authorized to enter into the negotiation and made such a bargain with you as might have been concluded on by mutual agreement.

But as the case now stands it must be susceptible of various constructions and may be a source of some unpleasantness. We take the liberty to advise therefore, that you call the Book Committee together and have a distinct and explicit understanding in regard to this subject before you enter upon your journey. We make this suggestion that the subject may be adjusted satisfactorily to all concerned which we fear will not be the case if you proceed under the vague resolution “that your quarterly allowance and expenses be paid” out of the funds of the Concern.

You know it is very desirable to have that book brought into market as early as possible, and for ourselves, we can see no necessity for any journey for you to take except the one to Canada which will secure to you an opportunity of obtaining much important information which will have a direct bearing on the work. As to nations and tribes other than the Wyandotts, all that might be necessary of their history might be easily collected from books. We think it probable after a more mature reflection you will find a journey to the far west beyond the Mississippi unnecessary to the objects had in view.

Bro. Morris is expected at home the first of April or perhaps sooner. He would have some time we would suppose to assist you in arranging and revising your manuscript copy if you should have any part in readiness. Perhaps if you come down you may see him here.

We remain yours respectfully,

Wright & Swormstedt

At bottom of page, in Finley’s handwriting ???

1\textsuperscript{st} Have the agents of the Western Book Concern authority by the advise of the Book Committee to apply the funds of the Concern to the purchase of the ms. copy of any new work?

2\textsuperscript{nd} Have they the right to publish such a work without the concurrence of the “General Book Steward”