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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

3-11-1837

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

John F. Wright

L. Swormstedt

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Recommended Citation

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Cincinnati March 11 1837

Brother Finley yours of the 2nd Inst was received
a few days since but constant prep 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 ad-
vised 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 make such a bar-
gain 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 unplea-
santness. We take the liberty to ad-
vise therefore, 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 & for 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 notions and tribes other than the Wyandots, 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. We 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 Howland

1st. Have the agents of the western book concern authorized by the advice of the book committee to apply the funds of the concern to the purchase of the ms copy of any new work?
2nd. Have they the right to publish such a work without the concurrence of the "General Book Steward" of the Association of our
-?

Brother Finley,

Yours of the 2nd 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 expences, 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 be 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 expences 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.

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We remain yours respectfully,

Wright & Swormstedt

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

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