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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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3-21-1837

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

John F. Wright

L. Swormstedt

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A copy of a letter to  
J. B. Fairley

Bro Fairley,

Chic March 21. 1837

Yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> Inst. is received and from its character we infer that when you received our communication you laid it aside and during your "night reflection" you forgot nearly all it contained and imagined a great many things as "well covered" which had no existence either in our letters or in our minds. We wish you to know distinctly that we have no disposition to use any language towards you except that which is decorous & respectful, and that no circumstances or combination of circumstances however exciting could induce us to address you in the manner and style of your letter.

Our object in writing at this time is to furnish some explanation of Wright's silence as you term it, and of which you complain so much. When Bishop Soule's letter was read to the Brook Conn. (which was the first notice Wright had of such a matter) all seemed to be greatly animated with the prospect of having a Book and of having a good one for you told us that Bp. S. Morris & hedge & Leav had promised to assist you - This contemplated Book engrossed the whole attention and we examined into nothing except the ways & means of accomplishing the object. Wright was far from being silent in one respect, for he was as anxious to have a book as perhaps any one present, and is willing to have you

sustained in the work and an occasion now seems to require it we  
would say that Wright actually drafted the preamble and  
resolutions which the Com. adopted Hence he called one  
of them "vague" with so little ceremony being drawn up  
in haste by himself. The simple reason why he did not suggest  
any doubt of the legality of publishing a new ~~book~~ not  
known in our catalogue or of expending money for the  
procurement of the manuscript copy at Cincinnati is - that  
he did not happen to think of any doubt on the subject and  
that his mind should operate so slow is his misfortune  
rather than his fault - and he has no doubt but his Merciful  
and Omniscient Judge will overlook this as an infirmity.  
Had he been a "Genl Book St." authorized  
as such in the Discipline or you suppose him to be he  
would have arranged this matter to his own satisfaction  
and that of his offended Bro -

In conclusion we ask you to  
read the whole section on the Book concern and then  
ask yourself this question - If Eastern men decided  
that we had no right at Cincinnati to publish or print  
any book found in our Catalogue if the same had  
been stereotyped at N. Y. while they not endeavor  
to have the agent censured by the next Genl. Conf.  
if they publish any new work not known in the ca-  
talogues? When called to act in this matter  
we hesitated, and begged the counsel of brethren and  
submitted the subject to you first in two plain  
questions - We had reason to expect from our

aged Bro, and Chairman of the Book Com-  
his views and counsel ~~gravely~~ set forth and calculated  
either to remove or confirm our doubts in regard to the  
legality of the measure - but instead thereof we regret  
to say a letter of abuse was ret.

Yours &c  
V. J. S.  
Copy of letter to  
of T. H. H.

Cinci March 21 1837

Bro Finley,

Yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst is received and from its character we infer that when you received our communication you laid it aside and during your “night’s reflection” you forgot nearly all it contained and imagined a great many things as “well covered” which had no existence either in our letter or in our minds. We wish you to know distinctly that we have no disposition to use any language towards you except that which is decorous and respectful, and that no circumstance or combination of circumstances however exciting could induce us to address you in the manner and style of your letter.

Our object in writing at this time is to furnish some explanation of Wright’s silence as you term it and of which you complain so much.

When Bishop Soule’s letter was read to the Book Com. (which was the first notice Wright had of such a matter) all seemed to be greatly animated with the prospect of having a book and of having good one, for you told us that Bp. T. Morris & Judge McLean had promised to assist you. This contemplated book engrossed the whole attention and we examined into nothing except the ways & means of accomplishing the object. Wright was far from being silent, in one respect, for he was as anxious to have a book as perhaps any one present, and is willing to have you sustained in the work and as occasion now seems to require we would say that Wright actually drafted the preamble and resolution which the Com. adopted. Hence he called of them “vague” with so little ceremony being drawn up in haste by himself. The simple reason why he did not suggest any doubt of the legality of publishing a new books not known in our catalogue or of expending money for the procurement of the manuscript copy at Cinci is – that he did not happen to think of any doubt on the subject and that his mind should operate so slow is his misfortune rather than his fault, and he has no doubt but his Merciful and Omniscient Judge will overlook this as an infirmity.

Had he been a “Gen. Book Agt” authorized as such in the Discipline as you suppose him to he would have arranged the matter to his own satisfaction and that of his offended Bro.-

In conclusion we ask you to read the whole section on the Book Concern and then ask yourself this question – If Eastern men decided that we had no right Cinci to publish or print, any book found in our catalogue if the same had been stereotyped at N.Y. will they not endeavor to have the agents censured by the next Gel. Conf. if they publish any new work not known in the catalogue? When called to act in this matter we hesitated and begged the counsel of brethren and Subcommittee the subject to you first in two plain questions. We have reason to expect from an aged Bro, and chairman of the Book Comm, his views and counsel gravely set forth and calculated either to remove or confirm our doubts in regard to the legality of the measure – but instead thereof we regret to say a letter of abuse was ret’d.

Yours,  
W. & S.

A copy of a letter to J.B. Finley