3-21-1837

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

John F. Wright

L. Swormstedt

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters

**Recommended Citation**


This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.
A Copy of a Letter

Mr. Finlay,

Cune March 21, 1837

Yoours of the 18th inst., is received and from its character we infer that when you received our communication you can judge and decide your wishes in relation to the subject of our communications. We are informed you forget nearly all it contains, and imagine a great many things are well covered which had no existence either in our letter or in our minds. We wish you to know distinctly that we know no definition to use any language towards you except that which is necessary, We expect that and that we cannot afford or contumacy or circumstantial, how unreasonable should induce us to address you in the manner and style of your letter.

Our object in writing this letter is to furnish some explanation of Wright's letter, as you term it, and of which you complain so much. The object of the letter was to add to the forces (which were the first notice of Wright's) of which a Mr. Smith had been told to be greatly alarmed, with the prospect of having a F. and of having a great deal for the letter by Mr. J. B. Morris at the time it was promised to adjust you. They contemplated this letter required the whole attention and we examined into nothing except the ways of accomplishing the object. Wright was far from being silent in our letter or for he was as anxious to have a book or, perhaps any one project, and is willing to know you
In the words of the person mentioned in the note, they would say that Wright actually drafted the preface and dedication, which the Cate adopted through a process described as "a single signatory" with "a little ceremony being shown in the form by himself.

The same note also mentions that Wright did not suggest any doubt of the legality of publishing a new work, but that he knew in one catalog of the society's money for the purpose of the manuscript copy of Cate's in that he did not happen to think of any doubt on the subject, and that his mind should operate to show in his misfortune rather than his fault and he has no doubt but his Master and Overseers will overlook this as an error.

"He has been a good Man of Affairs" Authorized as one in the discretion of the Master to be shown. I wrote to him the 1st of June to come on the Society and that of his offer of 1370.--

In the conclusion, we ask you to read the whole situation as the Master Cate's, and then ask yourself this question: Whether the person who directed that he has no right at all to publish or print any book found in our catalogues in the same has been relieved at all; if they will not endeavor to have the request conveyed by the next 

"If they publish any New Work not known in the Catalogue? When called to act in the matter we are able to and try by the Council of Brothers and submit the subject to you judge in this place and questions.-- The law reason to respect from our..."
Bro Finley,

Yours of the 18th inst is received and from its character we infer that when you received our communication you laid it aside and during your “nights 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 sterotyped 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