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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

4-28-1838

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

John F. Wright

L. Swormstedt

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Copy of Letter to
Rev. J. B. Finley

Dear Bro: Finley,

Cin: April 28th 1858

Yours of the 20th inst. has been received, and altho' you do not ask for an answer, we think it best that we make a few remarks in reply. In stating the part of the work you were expected to perform in the publication of the History of the Wyandott Mission, you refer to two brethren Bishop Soule & A. W. Elliott. We respect them very highly and are bound to respect their opinions, yet we beg leave to call attention to the resolutions of the Ohio Conference which you know is to be the guide of all parties "1st That J. B. Finley be requested to continue the composition of his Indian History"

"2nd That the Book Committee be requested to examine said work and if in their judgment it merits, a publication the Conference request the Book Agents to negotiate with Bro: Finley for the copy right, and publish said History."

This 2nd resolution certainly supposes the manuscript to be in some sense prepared for the press. It supposes also, that the Book Committee after an examination are to determine if it merits a publication, and then we are requested to negotiate with you for the copy right. The agreement we made with you on the 6th of Feb^y was made under the impression, that the transcribing into a fair hand after some corrections would prepare the manuscript for the press, but in this it seems we were mistaken, as the resolution of the last meeting of the Book Committee, intimates the necessity of the manuscript undergoing a recomposition

Our 2nd Agreement written on the same paper entered
into on the 26th of March, you will recollect is in the
following words "Under this date it is agreed by the
parties named in the foregoing article, that the con-
tract be suspended for the present, and that J. W. Finley of
the first part, withdraw his manuscript for enlargement,
revision, and preparation for the press. And that when
he shall return the manuscript and the Book Committee
approve of it, and recommend its publication. It is agreed
that the foregoing Contract made on the 6th day of Feby.
shall be binding on all the parties" Now are aware that
the Book agents cannot publish any work unless recom-
mended by the Book Committee, and if Bro: Elliott
should exercise his best skill in preparing your manu-
script. It would still have to be (according) to our under-
standing of the arrangements recommended by the Book
Committee before we could publish it. Now just so soon
as the Book Committee shall approve of your Manuscript
and recommend its publication, we shall be willing to
bind ourselves for the manuscript and copy right according
to the provisions of the first contract, but until that re-
commendation is had, we are compelled to beg permission
to adhere strictly to the suspending Contract, for we have
no means of having the work prepared for the press
without considerable additional expense. Our J. J. W.
will procure the engraving of your Portrait on the
most favourable terms, for it certainly ought to accompany
the History by whomsoever it may be published.

We remain yours respectfully

Wright & Inormetrot

Dear Bro Finley,

Yours of the 20th inst has been received and altho you do not ask for an answer, we think it best that we make a few remarks in reply. In stating the part of the work you were expected to perform in the publication of the History of the Wyandott Mission, you refer to two brethren, Bishop Soule & A.W. Elliott. We respect them very highly and are bound to respect their opinions, yet we beg leave to call attention to the resolution of the Ohio Conference which you know is to be the guide of all parties. "1st That J.B. Finley be requested to continue the composition of his Indian History."

2nd That the Book Committee be requested to examine said work and if in their judgment it merits a publication the Conference request the Book Agents to negotiate with Bro. Finley for the copy right, and publish said History."

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Our 2nd agreement written on the same papers entered into on the 20th of March, you will recollect is in the following words – "Under this date it is agree by the parties named in the foregoing article, that the contract be suspended at present, and that J.B. Finley of the first part, withdraw his manuscript for enlargement, revision, and preparation for the press. And that when he shall return the manuscript and the Book Committee approve of it, and recommend its publication. It is agreed that the foregoing contract made on the 6th day of Feby shall be binding on all the parties." You are aware that the Book Agents cannot publish any work unless recommended by the Book Committee, and if Bro. Elliott should exercise his best skill in preparing your manuscript it would still have to be (according to our understanding of the arrangements) recommended by the Book Committee before we could publish it. Now just so soon as the Book Committee shall approve of your manuscript and recommend its publication, we shall be willing to bind ourselves for the manuscript and copy right according to the provisions of the first contract, but until that recommendation is had, we are compelled to beg permission to adhere strictly to the suspending contract, for we have no means of having the work prepared for the press without considerable additional expence. Our J.F.W. will procure the engraving of your portrait on the most favourable terms, for it certainly ought to accompany the History by whomsoever it may be published.

We remain yours respectfully
Wright & Swormstedt

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