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Letter from D.H. Beardsley to James B. Finley

D.H. Beardsley

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Rev. James W. Finley
Upper San Jose
Calif

Boonville
Calif

Columbus, January 18th 1825.

Respected Sir

It is some weeks since I received your note on the subject of appointing Mr. Mepinger an associate judge for Marion county. It gave me pleasure to learn from your letter, that Mr. M. was willing to accept of the appointment; and it was my desire that nothing should occur that would disappoint our expectations. Capt. Murray was the first to suggest, that it would be necessary for Mr. Mepinger to be an actual resident of the county, at the time of his appointment; and, on making inquiry of a number of intelligent members of the Legislature, I found that they concurred with Capt. Murray in opinion. I immediately wrote to Mr. Mepinger on the subject, and enquired whether it would be convenient for him to remove to Marion county before the election; and was sorry to receive for answer, that he could not remove from Del. aware till spring. Thus have my intentions respecting the appointment of Mr. Mepinger, been disappointed.

The Division of the Wyandott Reservation among the individuals belonging to that nation, is a subject which is interesting to us all; but it is understood that a part of said nation are opposed to said division, and it has been suggested that those individuals who are opposed to said division would be willing to sell to the United States. I have also been told that you are desirous that the Christian Indians should purchase their lands; but believing that the Christian Indians will have much more land of their own than they will ever be able to use, I cannot but hope, that you will use your influence that the lands of the Heaster Indians may be sold to the Government.

Crawford county is at present in an unfortunate situation; as it does not contain, exclusive of the Reservation, the constitutional territory to form a county; and, as the Reservation occupies the heart of the county, there appears to be no proper place for a county seat. If the government could purchase one third of the Reservation, altho' it should be on the eastern side, it would

then contain territory enough to form a county; and would afford a suitable site for a county seat.

The canal Bill is now undergoing discussion in the Senate, and, I think, will no doubt pass both branches of the Legislature. Believing that you take some interest in this important work, I send you the Report of the Canal commissioners on the subject. From this you will see that our route is given up.

There is some prospect of our being able to get an appropriation on our road; but, I am sorry to say, that Mr. Hedges is endeavouring, with all his might, to frustrate it.

There are also two other Bills of much importance before the Legislature, viz. a Finance Bill and a Bill providing for the support of common schools; both of which I expect will pass.

I am, Sir, with much respect,
Your obt. servant,

Rev. Jas. J. Finley.

D. Mc. Bearnsey.