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James B. Finley Letters

12-15-1825

Letter from James B. Finley to L.W. Cass

James B. Finley

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Now Sir take from them the following families

in answer
to Sir's letter
June 13 1825

77 Much Labor and Money has been expended already
by the Government & the Church on this People and if
removed to the Westward it might be considered lost
in a great degree and it would be in the Judgment of
Many driving out our own Citizens to heathenism
for they are certainly Bone of our & flesh of our flesh
I do hope that the Government will let us make a full
trial on these People and also that the Government will
continue our School Salary at what it was last year
Please to use your Influence for this Purpose

J. B. Finsley

To
Care

Upper Sandusky Dec 15 1825

590
E
732
Hon Sir I take the present opportunity of writing
to you on the Subject of the Indians under our care
at this place and am happy to state to you that the
work of civilization is progressing as fast as we could
reasonably expect it but Indians in the general & the
Chiefs especially feel disposed to follow the advice of their
friends and especially the instructions given by your
self & the General Government to improve their lands &
stock and also to divide their lands agreeable to
the provisions made in the Treaty at Fort Meigs &
the advice of your self & others this Plan I think is
fully adopted by the nation and in the last sum-
mer they employed a Surveyor to commence and
lay off into sections as long as they were able to pay
him then the work was stoped for a season. & I am request-
ed by the Chiefs to request you to use your influ-
ence with the Government to lend them some aid in
this Business and as it will be a great help to
them in their march to civilization I do hope the
Government will grant it. In my Judgment this People
have claims on us that none others of the Northwestern
Indians have since the Treaty of Greenville they have
been friends and fought valiantly in the last war with
Britain & their constant adherence to the advice of the
Government and their strong exertions to become a civilized
People this I think is unparalleled and they cannot
now be a remaining Doubt but the will (that is
a large Majority of them) be an agreeable People

3^d The Mercy constantly shown by this nation in the time of War to Prisoners whether taken by themselves or others. It was their constant practice to purchase all Prisoners from other nations of Indians and either adopt them into their own families or to have them Exchanged & this I think now calls for us to show Mercy & help them.

4th Their Approximation to the Whites is Much more than any other People of the forests. They are very much mixed with the Americans and the foregoing article may easily account for it. Many of the principal families that compose this tribe are the fourth one half or one quarter white and have numerous white Melitians living in this State. Thus the Walkers the Bane the Armstrongs the Hicks the Grayes the Franklin the McCullocks the Brown the ~~Black~~ old Honneps. Besides several white women that have been taken Prisoners and have half Breeds. Their is George Abram & Joseph Hittiens families all now by connected with the whites and whose fathers were all American Citizens and I know of no Law that can deprive their children by Indian women of the right of Citizenship. The two McWallers are acknowledged as such and both hold offices under the Government if this be correct I do assure you that three fourths of this People have the same and nothing is wanting to make them respectable and useful Citizens of the United States but to be Educated and Instructed in the useful arts and every Exertion is making to do this that the Circumstances will admit of.

5th The Approximation of these People to the Whites is far ^{more} than they are so rapidly mixing with the ~~State~~ ^{them} and I have no doubt but they will continue to mix until the will be swallowed up in our Population. Some of this Nation and those who draw regularly their annuities are in office in the State Treasury Major Long is Married to half Indian woman and Arch McCulloch is Auditor of Logan County in a word Sir I do Believe that a Majority of the mixing Generation are Legitimate Citizens of the American Government if my premises are correct that is their being Decended from those who were naturally Citizens and I am happy to find that the Government has acknowledged the principle by appointing them to offices. This is not a Limerick but I hold myself responsible for the truth of what I have stated. It true that many of the old ones are Indians but how long will they last & they are falling every year as fast before the Sythe and a very few years there will not one of them be left ~~to be seen~~ and even these are most anxious that their children should not be driven from the Land of their Ancestors but remain & and become fellow Citizens and enjoy all Blessings of Civilized Life.

6th This nation is but a Remnant and that small Six Hundred & twenty I think will be the amount of all that resides here at the Big Spring the River Huron & Canarr in Canada and there is to my knowledge more with the Mohawks Delawares & Shawnees so that the Remnants of the Wyandott is small.

Hon Sir – I take the present opportunity of writing to you on the subject of the Indians under our care at this place and am happy to state to you that the work of civilization is progressing as fast as we could reasonably expect it. Our Indians in the general & the chiefs espetically feel disposed to follow the advice of their friends and espetically the instructions given by your self & the general government to improve their lands & stock and also to divide their lands agreeable to the provisions made in the Treaty at Fort Meggs & the advice of your self & others. This plan I think is fully adopted by the nation and in the last summer they employed a surveyor to commence and lay off into sections as long as they were able to pay him then the work was stopped for a season. And I am requested by the chiefs to request you to use your influence with the government to lend them some aid in this business as it will be a great help to them in their march to civilization. I do hope the government will grant it. In my judgment this people have claims on us that none other of the Northwestern Indians have.

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population. Some of this nation and those who draw regularly their annuities are in office in the state employ. Major Long is married to half Indian woman and Noah McCulloch is auditor of Logan County. In a word sir I do believe that a majority of the rising generation are legitimately citizens of the American government if my premises are correct, that is their being descended from those who were naturally citizens and I am happy to find that the government has acknowledged the principle by appointing them to offices. This is not a chimera but I hold myself responsible for the truth of what I have stated. It's true that many of the old ones are Indians but how long will they last. They are falling every year as grass before the scythe and a very few years there will not one of them be left and even these are most anxious that their children should not be driven from the land of their relations but remain & become fellow citizens and enjoy all blessing of civilized life.

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7th Much labor and money has been expended already by the government & the church on this people and if removed to the wilderness it might be considered lost in a great degree and it would be in the judgment of many driving our own citizens to heathenism for they are certainly bone of ours & flesh of our flesh. I do hope that the government will let us make a full trial on these people and also that the government will continue our school salary at what it was last year. Please to use your influence for this purpose.

In answer to Gov. Cass letter June 13, 1825

J.B. Finley