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James B. Finley Letters

1-10-1826

Letter from John Johnston to James B. Finley

John Johnston

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Dear Sir,

covering one to you from the War Department. If it shall be necessary to call in the services of the U.S. District attorney, it will also be necessary to have Mr. Parish to assist, the district attorney being at too great a distance to manage the business in person. I think you had best state the case to Mr. Parish, and let him examine the statutes and correspond with Mr. Benham, or bring the case into the state court, as he may think best. My own opinion is, that the state tribunals may have jurisdiction, but of this Mr. Parish can decide better than myself, if the other course is the most correct, then Mr. Parish can consult Mr. Benham who is the District attorney, take his directions, and proceed accordingly. If the case can be decided by the state courts, it will be best, because, it is expensive and troublesome to prosecute in the Federal Court, and it is too small a matter to go there, if it can be avoided.

I am sorry you found it necessary to touch on the case of Mr. Shaw; it was due to candor and friendship that I should give you the information of the intention of Governor Cass to have him again placed in the Indian Department, and that he should not be placed in your way at Sandusky. I have expressly written to the Governor requesting that under no circumstances should Mr. Shaw be placed at Sandusky - The removal of this person has, as far as I am informed, been

The Rev

James B. Finley

Piqua Ct
Jan 11/17

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John Johnson
Jan 1826

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P.S. I have good reason to believe that a treaty will be ordered next summer for purchasing out the Indians in Ohio and the Alleghenies of Indiana, and that Governor Cass's visit to Washington is connected with this project. in this case, it will be made the duty of every man in the Indian Department to aid and assist in effecting the object, as this event cannot be controlled by any other, would it not be the wisest plan for your Society to acquiesce and give their aid in moving the Indians, where they might have the complete control of them, and where all occasion for farther removal would cease. The Indians by Treaty would be given a certain number of years to move in, Missionaries, and School Masters provided for, improvements paid for, moved at the publick expense, and a handsome increase to their annuity, Blacksmiths guaranteed and many other advantages which they cannot expect here. Since last October there has been 6 Indians assassinated on this \pm .

disapproved of. I acted throughout the whole affair in his case, on the grounds of true policy, as well with regard to its bearing upon your mission, as it regarded the public service, and its effect on public opinion, and we must all acknowledge that to disregard these considerations, under a popular Government, would be the height of madness and folly. I have recommended to the Governor to send Mr. Shaw to Saint Joseph on Lake Michigan, where there is a Sub Agent wanted to reside with the Ottawa Indians.

The Indians must all leave this Country sooner or later. This is a position which every reflecting man must admit to. The Wyandots can form no exception to the rule. They may remain longer than the others, but they must go too. and in as much as they must all go, the sooner the better, for those that will go first, will be best accommodated with a choice of Country, and with liberal arrangements being made for them. Would it not be better for the Methodist Church to advise the measure, get the Wyandots out of the reach of bad white men and send their ministers and teachers with them where they would have a Country which would be theirs for ever. it is known that the Government in case of removal, would make the most liberal and permanent arrangements for the Indians and that the Country is to be secured to them by the most solemn compact. If I was called upon with my dying breath to say which was the best for the Indians, go or stay. I should say go by all means. I cannot be accused of self interest

in the matter, for it is evident to all that it would be to my advantage to keep the Indians here. but as a public man acting for the Government and the Indians. I cannot falsify the truth, in encouraging the Indians to calculate on staying here.

Your young man John McLean is at school in Piqua. I called to see him and invited him up here he has not yet come. I told Mr. Mitchell the Teacher, that any articles of Stationary John might want, that he might get them at any store and I would pay for them. My little son writes me from Worthington that 2 of Bishop Chas's Indian scholars had gone away, my namesake remained.

We are all sick here with the cold influenza. the weather is now soft open and warm for the season. My own health is bad, during this weather particularly so. I do not know what it is to have a day's health. and I do not sleep as much as in a week as I ought to do in 2 nights. The case of Mr. Shaw will make no difference I hope between us, we do not think alike, but I shall give the Mission School an Agency in your hands, all the aid and assistance in my power. My love and respects to your family to the Walker, all, and to the Chiefs.

With great respect y^r ob. t^t

John Johnston

Ind. Agent

The Rev.

James B. Finley

Upper Sandusky.