4-26-1826

Letter from James B. Finley to John Johnston

James B. Finley

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Recommended Citation
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You can make the necessary inquiries of Mr. Bland about affairs and then report to Mr. Johnson and try to spread it among the others. If you can not convince me on your & that allegation, do if you do. Other things I am yours T. B. Franklin

J. Johnston

as if you have any Demand to me or any other matter now. May you.

Extract to acquire me on any occasion

Mr. Sandys of March 24, 1824

Mr. Johnston. Some time has elapsed since I have attempted to address you in the manner I have been accustomed to do in writing and I have ever been disposed to make affections to your last. You request to me to give my opinion on the subject of the Indians. The Indians did not answer your request.

The thought that you send me since mine it and that you did it to try to influence me on some subject as I have never heard from you in this or any other repartee from you in this or any other subject. From you in this or any other subject.

You ask me if I will be able to do. I will be able to do.

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You ask me if I will be able to do. I will be able to do.
You should tell your lands you will be
buried as you wish and you wish before
I would offer myself to be employed on a commission
to come to purchase your land, I must
design my office as an agent, now in these
observations you make in my hearing and not
of this I will mention in the same
Your hose I look upon you expect unmention
ed excuses to extort the fund for buying
you out as a man, thinking Christianity
to be the cause of such accruement.
Hence I can see that the whole, you
Put away from your mind you see My soul will
not come into your secret,
and your house given you by the Agent of the
About my trying to extort what
is yours to be in your behalf Suffer Me to
try the people in your behalf Suffer Me to
try to you most behind your back.
Not that there are many complaints about your
Abundance and your Great to Me, the
Indians their are instructions that you are trying
to give a deadly blow at your Simpson
this office and this by the fix free
I am in no place to perform the operation
about the determination it can't be any
And the determination is that you will
The law would happen to help in any
Hope to have your help otherwise or it would
not that I wish with it, do you know
impracticable would you think? besides the
Indians have no confidence in your
Coming things against sentiments to do such
Reminds you very inscriptions

I am in the firm opinion that I could
May know that I wish this would consent
in your honor of the folly of your course and
I pray you to consider it in reflections I hope
you will not want to your evening break
I have told you that the truth I have a little
A few days since stating that the first plan was
Abandoned & your orders have been

And if it is plain that the disfavour of the
Plan of moving but if you must con
It must by the consent of the
Indians now you do the honors for yourself to
Buy a law to transport every Indian even
To betray them or out of the United States
And write as much justice and with much
Humility may you search yourself
Here more behalf of the Indians to go to
Here own our disfavour to justify a few
Covering Land Indians Such a System
They sold will not let prevail
Is it wishing to be my own power will
Compel me to advance these my Christian
Brothers to a stop it in my true friend and
In the Hindmost of your affairs then more
It will take them from the face of the
Earth if this must The because they are
And I cannot be or as the law in your
Punishments with them all at once
This is what many want noise or law
Come and take Road, what do you have
You got my sentiments, hope you will do me
Can? Well let you and if you shall
The any more Indians from this country


Mr. Johnston

Some time has elapsed since I have attempted to address a few lines to you. Since which time I have been confined and still am with much afflictions. In your last you requested me to give my opinion with respect to moving the Indians. The reason I did not answer your request was I thought that you long since knew it and that you did it to try to involve me in some difficulty as I have the honor to differ very widely in this as well as in other respects from you. In my opinion 2nd the imperious manner in which you wrote that they must & shall. I thought it was rather the language of self importance then that of the government & 3rd you had no right to make any demands of me or any other officer under you as you were not instructed by your superior in office nor by the government. It plainly showed to me a premature zeal unauthorized either in your instruction or in your relation to the Indians 4th I could not with any degree of propriety state it as coming from you to the Wyandotts for I wish to see men act consistent with themselves and these Indians look for it. Do you remember the counsel you held with these people in the Mission pasture and what you stated to them as your last dying words never to sell their land nor exchange for this the only shot you have on Earth and the moment you sell this all is gone and you are ruined for ever. Look said you at your Brethren the Dellawares who were persuaded to sell & go west of the Mississippi. They have written to me letters of sorrow and how they are ruined. Now if you should sell your lands you will be ruined as bad as them and farther. Before I would suffer myself to be employed as a commissioner to come to purchase your land I would resign my office as an agent. Now Sir, these protestations you made in my hearing and that of others who remember them well.

How does this look with your present unauthorized exertions to afflict the Poor & Needy. You ought as a man professing Christianity to be ashamed of such a course. However if you can so easily trifle with your publick vows I assure you Sir my soul shall not come into your secret.

And as you have given freely what reports say about my trying to injure Capt Cass which is founded in falsehood, suffer men to say to you not behind your back that there are many conjectures about your unauthorized zeal to move the Indians. There are suspicions that you are trying to aim a Deadly Blow at your superior in office and who by the has impudence enough to differ from you in opinion about the exterminating plan set in office by others and the opinion is that you wish if this law should happen to pass in any shape to have your self appointed a commissioner. But this I think will not do. You know besides the Indians have no confidence in you. Your language changes your sentiments so much renders you very suspicious.

Dier Sir, after these glum statements (which I take may prove what I desire—Men should convict in your breast of the folly of your course and bring you to consideration & reflection). I hope you will not think me your Enemy because I have told you the truth. I received a letter a few days since stating that the first plan was abandoned and I have received Mr. Barbours report. It is plain that he disapproves of the Plan of Moving, but if it must be, it must by the consent of the Indians.
Now would you Sir like for Congress to pass a law to transport every Irishman to Botney Bay or out of the United States and with as much justice and with as much humanity. May you scare and persuade these poor helpless Indians such as to go to their own destruction to satisfy a few covetous land holders. Such a nefarious thing God will not let prevail.

As it respects myself no power shall compel me to advise these my Christian brethren to a step that in my judgement and in the judgment of many others. And these men that will exterminate from the face of the Earth. If they must die because they are Indians come and do as we did _____ with them all at once. This is what many want Blood or Land. Come and take Boath. Now Sir you have got my sentaments. I hope you will let me alone and I shall let you and if you should see any more Indians from this country you can make all the necessary inquiry of them about affairs and then report it to Mr. Walker and try to spread it everywhere else if you can not impose me a fair and just allegation. Do as you do other things. I am yours.

J.B. finley

PS If you have any demand to make