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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

4-26-1826

Letter from James B. Finley to John Johnston

James B. Finley

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you can make all the necessary inquiry of
them about affairs and then report it to Mr
Walker and try to spread it every
where else if you can not inquire more
or far & just allegations do it you do
other things I am yours
J. Johnson

As if you have any demand to
make but I am ready to open
what I have stated - nor may you
expect to squire me on any
account

Letter to Jno
Johnson on the
subject of the
Indians

St Sandusky June 24 1846

Mr Johnson Some time has elapsed since I
have attempted to address a few lines to you since
what 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 I do so in a very Impudent manner in writing
you wrote that they must & shall &c. Although
it was rather the language of self importance
than that of the government & I 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 and
authorized either in your instruction or in your
pretation to the Indian & they would not with any
type of propriety state it as coming from you
to the Wyandots for I wish to see men act
consistent with themselves & their Indians look for
it do you remember the Council you held with these
people in the Indian posture and what you stated
to them as your last dying words mean to sell them
land no exchange for this the only spot 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 Delawares who were removed
to the West of the Mississippi they have written to our
letters of sorrow & how they are ruined now if

you should tell your lands you will be
thru'd as bad as them and farther before
I would suffer myself to be employ'd as a commis-
sioner to come to purchase your land I would
design 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 you Present unan-
imous Exortions to affect 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 Secrett

and as you have given fully what Report says
about my trying to injure Capt Lys what
is founded in falsehood suffer Me to
say to you not behind your Back

That there are many Conjectures about your
unauthoriz'd 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 by has Impudance
enough to differ from you in opinion
about the ^{plan} ~~exterminating~~ let an forth say
& others and the opinion is that you wish

if the said should happen to pass in any
shape to have your self appointed a Commissioner
or that this I think will not do you know
unpopularity would for bid it besides the
Indians have no confidence in you your
coming changes your sentiments so quick
renders you very suspicious

Sir Sir after these plain statements (which I
hope may prove what I desire they should convince
in your Bosom 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 heard a letter
a few days since stating that the first Plan was
abandoned & I have received Mr Barbours
Report it is plain that the Disapprover of the
Plan of Moving but if it must be
I must beg 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 send & persuade
these Poor helpless Indians to go to
their own Distruction to fortify a few
covetous Land holders such a design
they God will not let prevail
as it respects My self no Power shall
compell me to advise these My Christian
Brethren to a step at in my Judgment and
in the Judgment of Many Juster than
that will Exterminate from the face of the
Earth if they must die because they are
Indians Come & do as the did for the
Savages kill them all at once
this is what Many Want Blood & Land
Come and take Boath Now Sir you have
got my sentiments I hope you will let me alone
and I will let you and if you should
see any more Indians from this Country

Finley_749

Upper Sandusky

April 26, 1826

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 than 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 shew'd 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 Bretheran 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 soule 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 by has impudence enough to differ from you in opinion about the exterminating plan set in force 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 ____ would _____ 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 be 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 distruction 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