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James B. Finley Letters

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Letter from John Woods to James B. Finley

John Woods

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Administration & opposition - This
is the name of our Legislature.

Yours Respectfully
John Woods

Rev. James B. Findley

John Woods
March 1827

Washington Feby. 26th 1827

Sir,

Not having the pleasure of a
personal acquaintance with you
I have for some time on that ac-
count delayed writing you a line
I hope however during the sum-
mer to see you and will now
only suggest a subject in which
I feel considerable interest. I refer
to the policy of the Government in
relation to the Indians within our terri-
tory.

We have had before Congress
a scheme for removing them be-
yond the Mississippi. This I believe
to be a visionary project - It is
a plan not for the benefit of the

Indians but for the benefit of those who wish to obtain their lands - This however is my opinion and as you are better acquainted with the relations of these people to us and with their situation I hope during the summer that an opportunity will offer for me to see you on the subject - I would send you a copy of the documents on the subject which have been laid before us but I have only one copy which I will however be able to let you see when I get home.

I am firmly of the opinion that the best mode for their civilization is to continue a proper system of education among them and as soon as possible bring

them under our laws and give them their lands & property to be held in fee by each individual in his own right.

We have had some debate this winter on the subject but as nothing will be done towards the adoption of any general system I wish to gain all the information I can before the next Congress.

I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken in addressing this line to you. If you would favor me with a line directed to Hamilton it would be a favor.

We are doing very little in Congress but maneuvering between the different parties