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James B. Finley Letters

12-25-1835

Letter from Lorenzo Waugh to James B. Finley

Lorenzo Waugh

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Fredericktown Mo. Dec. 25th 1835

Dear Father *Simley* My delay in writing to you is not the result of forgetfulness - I have thought of you oft - Several things have forbid my writing till the present. And now I have not every thing that is the most pleasant to write. A rebellion of the slaves has been much feared lately. On last night the fears of the people were aroused to a great height, owing to late appearances seen, & threats heard, in connection with old reports (in ^{the} Stanes Murels seeing nearly every house in town was armed - little rest was taken; no interruption however took place, & the pious blessed the Lord for the return of an other Christmas, which they were permitted to see & commenced in peace. We now begin to feel the blighting Chills of the Curse of Slavery, which are rendered tenfold more poisonous & deadly by modern Abolitionism. I think myself, the people have more reason to fear here, than in some of the old slave states. The slaves here, have had more liberty, they are generally fed & clothed well & in the mining country especially, are generally armed. Many of them from their unrestrained mingling with the whites, have long since grown impudent & saucy; being ignorant & uncultivated no other could be expected again, there are those who associate with them especially about the mines who are more sly & crafty than themselves - who for whiskey & other plunder would at least take up the hatchets against their countrymen, or not. I do think, should a rebellion take place, it would be serious indeed. I scarcely know how to describe things & things here to you. There is a great deal of wickedness among the people. In many places intemperance prevails alarmingly. There is more gambling & horse racing than I have ever seen in any place before. What is still more afflictive some of the Baptist Clergy encourage much of it from their pulpits. We have one on this Cir. who preaches expressly against all the benevolent Societies of the day & is himself a Distiller - though strange to tell he is heard by some with a degree of interest & appears to exert considerable influence.

Missouri

Forwards
New York
Dec 25

Fredericktown Mo
28th Dec. 1835
Rev. A. B. Simley
Chicago
Ill

Am

Sometimes since I commenced my work on this Cir. I have found my-
self a good deal cast down, when witnessing the lukewarmness &
in difference of many of the members of the Church. They
had a dull time last year, & every thing seems to be on the
dull order. Some favorable omens have lately appeared, but
I do feel, that it will require extraordinary exertions to get
much affected. One thing I do know, God is able to help &
I have felt for sometime the spirit of prayer in creasing -
When praying I have felt greater access to God, & an enlarged
expectation that he will cause the gloom to give way, & the
cloud of mercy to burst; so that showers of grace-reviving
& converting grace may pour upon us. I have covenanted
a new this Christmas morning to be more fervent & to spend more
time in prayer - I know you will join me in asking God to send his
blessing on us. I would not suggest we have no good members
no! but I say, it is too plain that ~~that~~ we attend to religious services
or duty because it has been acknowledged right & is customary
& to worldly matters because we love, & are delighted in them
& hence the reason the former seems often to incite &
almost a quite lifeless, & the latter so pleasant & agreeable
This is beyond a doubt clear, when we just reflect, what a full-
ness is in the fopple & how little we enjoy. - We have in
this Conference some blessed good men - Oh what a
field is here, I had no idea of it before I came. Metho-
dism is I think is before any other ~~ism~~, among the Americans
& the remark made by an individual in the W. C. Advocate is literally
true; there are some which in order to be in any way successful
have to cover up or in some way conceal their own peculiarities & hold
up Methodist usages; & in my candid opinion the reason why
they do not prosper more & have ^{no} more than "three preachers" is they employ too much
ostentatious learning, zeal & charity in the concealing & covering up business -

I have enjoyed the best of health since I left Ohio & never for
one moment have regretted volunteering. I believe a preacher whom
God has called, & can only be happy in doing right & in order to
do that he must labour where he is needed - where he is not needed:
& I do believe, Father Finley this is the very place where I should
work at the present. Many more are needed here than the Lord would ^{send}
My journey to the Conference (which we reached on the 12th Sept
was not quite so pleasant as I expected it would be. Professor D.
became low spirited soon, & grew extremely irritable & peevish so that
I found it impossible to please him. To my great satisfaction Mr. Wm.
Lucas who lives near Portsmouth over took us in Indiana & crossed the
the Mississippi with us, & there when we parted with Mr. L. and other
young men from Ill. fell in with us, who proved a good comrade
The people were truly sickly both in Indiana & Ill.
They have had in Mo. more severe sickness during the past
summer & fall, than they have had for many years. I am
inclined to think on the whole Mo. is a pretty healthy
State. This is a productive country. Crops this year
are generally good. The early frost hurt late corn
& cotton some. We have had cold freezing weather
& one clever snow. - Please remember love to the friends
& brethren of Ohio May the Lord prosper you all there
we hope you will still remember us here
Do please Fr. Finley write me a long letter in pointing
me of things & with you there. I need much counsel of
the experienced - write freely if you please Direct
to Farmington, St. Francis Co. Mo
I remain dear Father your's in Christ
Rev. J. B. Finley { Lorenzo Waugh