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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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6-4-1844

## Letter from Uriah Heath to James B. Finley

Uriah Heath

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Newark Ohio June 11 1844

Rev. A. W. H. H. H.

Dear Brother, I have just been favoured with the perusal of a letter from you to our common friend A. Newton, and at the request of Bro. Newton, I sit down in his place to trace your answer. We, as well as yourself feel, that this is time of engrossing interest, not only to our own branch of the Church, but to the American people; for every discerning mind must see, that the action of the present General Conference will exert a powerful influence upon the destinies of this nation. It is our ardent hope, that the Great Head of the Church, will preside over the sitting of the Conference, and bring the great discussion respecting Slavery to a formable issue. We see the daily reports, which reach us in the Tribune and the Express much sooner than through the Christian Advocate. We have seen also the position which you occupy there, and humbly hope that the Grace of the Lord will sustain you, in the midst of the peril of your present position. How seem to desire to know, how the Ministers and Members of your district, and the church generally, view the subject, and your special position - So far as I have been able to ascertain from the preachers in my travels, all are satisfied, and rejoice to see the matter proceeding so well, and to see the Ohio delegation stand firm in their position. I have conversed personally with Bro. Whitecomb, Simmons, Hamilton, Smith, White, Bateman, Doughty, Davis and Newton of the Itinerant Ministry, with a number of the locality, and many of the Members, who without dissenting voice approve of the action in the Har

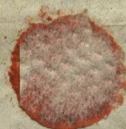
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Rev. James M. H. H.

Member of the General Conference

New York

Heath 4/4  
Newton 8/4  
Hunt





and of the action in the case of Bishop Andrews so far as it has gone. The Ministers generally say let him be deposed. And so far as I have heard, since the turning about of Bro E. M. Lohon, there is a manifestation of feeling which amounts almost to indignation. If I am not wholly mistaken, Bro. Lohon will <sup>meet</sup> a full and heavy tide of public opinion against ~~him~~ his return. He was suspected by many of Southern feeling before - but they thought perhaps they were mistaken, but so far as I can see this will fix his position, as identified to two great a degree with slaveholding influence. Permit me to say that you have nothing to fear, if you hold on the even tenor of your way. I have <sup>little</sup> doubt myself, that the South have been largely engaged in the Bishop Andrews affair, and have thought that if they could not get a slave holding bishop elected, they would gain their purpose, if they could by any means get any one of the present Bishops entangled with the evil. But we hope there is yet enough of Christian courage, to meet the evil, no matter how dark the front. I tell you that whether you are sustained by the General Conference or not, there are some in the Ohio A. Conference, who will stand by you to the last. May God sustain the Ohio delegation. You refer to the Bishop's threat of resignation. If so, let him go. There are many others who will fill the place well. - But I cannot believe that upon mature reflection he would go. - I hope that you will regard with a jealous eye, every sentiment, and every movement, which would give

the least countenance to the Office of Bishop being considered a third Order in the Ministry. If charges should finally be thought necessary in the case of Bishop A. make them out and prefer them. Bros Hamline and Durbin, would be most excellent advisers in business of this kind. If this case issues as we most ardently hope it will, honorably to the Discipline of the Church, and to the cause of truth and righteousness, then I think that the work of abolitionism is about over. - But if there should be quailing now, it will be a death stroke to the honor of the Church, and the cause of innumerable secessions. - I speak comparatively. - Please to give our special love to all the Ohio delegation who remain firm to what we think to be ground of the Gospel, and say to them that prayers are rising up to God for them publicly and privately. Things are moving on here about as usual. We shall anxiously wait to hear the final issue. God preserve your soul and body and bring you to your charge again in peace and with your Christian honor untarnished. With feelings of Christian love and personal regard

Rev James W. Finley

In an hour &

Wm H. Heath

Joseph Newton

P.S. If Bishop Soul is not the officer of the Gen. Conference, and perfectly amenable to the Gen. Conference, to whom would he resign his Office? If once a Bishop always a bishop, what power would receive a resignation?