

4-3-1845

Letter from Michael Marley to James B. Finley

Michael Marley

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Milford April 3rd 1845.

Dear Bro. Finley.

Yours of the 9th of December came to hand by due course of mail, and was read with great interest. I have not, for years, received a letter that afforded me more real pleasure, and the spirit of friendship that breathed in it throughout, affected me much. I can assure you my dear Bro. that the feeling is reciprocated to the fullest extent. There are some things in relation to my own conversion, that has always made you feel near to me, and a recollection of which affects me tenderly. And then you gave me my first license to preach, and have been my kind Presiding elder. For these and other reasons that might be enumerated, I set you down as a well tried friend. I might add, the kind recollection, you had of me, when on my back in Xenia. Oh, Bro. Finley, true friendship, is truly invaluable.

In regard to the Church controversy, I have settled down in the belief, that there will be no geographical division, and a secession I do not fear. However much we may deplore such an event, we have stood it, and we can stand it again. And in ten years, we will beat them at their own door.

The Baltimore Con. have done nobly, this will be a dampen to the South. They can't now be consistent in calling us abolitionists. You say what I subscribe to with all my heart, when you say that Proslaveryism, & Abolitionism ^{are} German Cousins. I think from all that I can learn there will be a respectable minority in several of the Southern Conferences. Will Bishop soul go with the South? His No. 2 mistified me perfectly, what a spectacle to the world, would be a seceding Bishop. However we will soon see what will be done at Louisville. I have nothing special to say in regard to the Dis. perhaps you saw the brief account I gave in the N. Advocate. This is a better year thus far, to myself, than the last was. I thank God that I enjoy a good hope of meeting you in a better world.

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Rev. James B. Finley

Jamesville,
Ohio.

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Milford Ct
April 4th

1845
J. M. May

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your friends Bro. and Sister Jeff, are well and are glad that they have you in their hearts to live and to die with you, you do now, and always will, I suppose. Send No. 1 in their kind regards, and so Bro. Finley with many in this section of the work. Doubtless in that day you will have many stars in your Crown of rejoicing. Our home controversy has settled down for which I am thankful. Bros. Elliott, and Latta are done, and I hope that they feel like Brethren.

Bro. Latta is afflicted about one thing. When he submitted his criticism on the Assembly, he did not know that your letter had come to hand, and in connexion with his peace ^{offer} he wrote a paragraph in relation to you self, which Bro. Elliott struck off and did not publish it, and that you may understand the Dr. I will give you an extract from his manuscript.

"Justice to myself, & Justice to brother Finley, requires of me an explanation. At the time of writing on his preamble and resolution in the case of Bishop Andrews, I had no idea that Bro. Finley based his resolutions upon the third restrictive article. I supposed he relied chiefly on the plans of Superintendency, or upon the tenor, and spirit of the Discipline in general. My arguments were intended to refute the arguments of some in this region. And I regret that any one should suppose me capable of ridicule towards one for whom I have the profoundest reverence, and to whom, I am under almost infinite obligations. I am compelled to dissent from some of Bro. Finley's views, but still there is no man living who has a higher seat in my affection, or in whose wisdom and integrity I can repose with greater confidence. I esteem him second to none in all that constitutes the man, and the Christian. He always says what he thinks, and thinks what he says."

This is from Dr. Latta's peace which was prepared after he saw your letter, and it was culled out. I have done this, that you may know what Latta thinks, and how he feels towards you, and I believe he speaks the sentiments of his heart, you must not therefore erase him from your list of friends.

What think you? who wrote the editorial of Dec 13-1844? we have been mislabeled hereabouts, some say one thing, and some another. The wise men say that it is a branch of the Croton river, you are aware that I have a strong aversion to Jesuitism.

And yet I fear that we have some of it amongst us. I would to God, that all men would be open, and candid, as I believe my old friend to be, then we might expect things to go on in the right way. I have been afflicted some this Spring with cold, but at present I am well through mercy, and my family also, and we all join in love to you. I am sorry that Bro. Young should take the view he does of his case, you know that I nominated him for South St. but could not get him. I suppose he will always blame me but he ought not.

Reed is doing fine, I never was separated from a man that I miss more than David, he is the Sound Corn. The old Col. Still sticks to his Socinianism, we have it high, and high, I have hope that he will yet embrace the Cross and by it, be able to die well. The Lord Bless him. now Bro. Finley I hope that you will not do as I have done, in delaying so long this letter. I would have wrote sooner, but for the fact, that I don't like to trouble a man of your age in answering letters frequently, and they not interesting. Did you know how much your letters cheer me up you would give me one once in a while. I thank you for your prompt answer to my last, and in future I will do better. Write soon. In conclusion I subscribe myself, yours in the bonds of a peaceful Gospel

To

Rev J. B. Finley

Affectionately

M. Marley