

Ohio Wesleyan University

Digital Commons @ OWU

---

Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

---

7-24-1845

## Letter from Evan Stephenson to James B. Finley

Evan Stephenson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters>

---

### Recommended Citation

Stephenson, Evan, "Letter from Evan Stephenson to James B. Finley" (1845). *Finley Letters*. 1313.  
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters/1313>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact [earutigl@owu.edu](mailto:earutigl@owu.edu).



For James B. Stuley

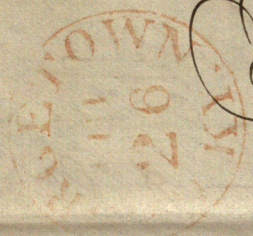
Pilgrimage Retreat  
July 24<sup>th</sup> 1845.

Dear Father

I am in receipt  
of your kind favour detached under the  
roof of Mrs. Jane Layton the estimable friend  
of my sister Lydia. I was highly interested  
and delighted with your letter on many acc-  
-ounts only regretted that it had not been  
designed for publication. We were happy  
to hear from our kind friend - should you see  
her soon tell her we are all well should  
be very much pleased to receive that per-  
-sonal visit. If I knew where to send your  
papers to they should not cost you any thing -  
only an effort occasionally to get up some  
renewal. I did not get up my little paper  
for the express purpose of crossing Mr. South-  
-am's wherewithal - but the spirit of the  
late Convention was to my mind so utterly  
subordinate & revolutionary - if not to the  
State - unquestionably to the Church - that I  
could not be silent - & I was impelled by  
a sense of justice to the persecuted & unrepresen-  
-ted friends & Conservatives of Ky - & Ohio -  
as well as elsewhere to utter my voice (feeble  
as I know it is) against the violence of the South.

At the farm  
near Cincinnati  
1845

For James B. Stuley.  
Cushville.  
Franklin County  
Ohio.





No man can feel more profound veneration for the  
aged Veterans of Methodism who have borne the  
burden & heat of the day — than does your humble  
servant — but even aged & grey hairs cannot in  
my estimation sanctify the unholy cause of Slavery.  
Slavery is the abstract — when Memphis Reports  
came to us of venerable men standing up in  
said Convention with the Bible of God in their  
hands — as a plea for this foulest blot upon  
the escutcheon of our Country & Gley — when  
such men as Dr. T. W. — could declare that  
he would vote for a separate organization  
if he believed a Disolution of this Union  
were to follow — I thought I should be true  
to the conservative principle of my Church &  
Country of this my peace. For this I have —  
venerable Sen. been unadverted upon — by  
many many correspondents — who seem to  
think they would if they could thrust my soul & body  
into Hell — I then again have read under  
— hastily circulated it that I am an Abolitionist  
I & Co. Enough of this tho. I wish you  
would write again I give you your views as  
to what you think should be done. (Cognate  
with Dr. T. W. I give them your counsel —  
For me I am determined to stay in the Methodist  
Episcopal Church — until I am turned out  
or die — I have a transfer to the first Conference  
in the Indies. I do not feel the least alarmed —

W.B. The two dollars came safely to hand. E.R.

And I believe of the voice of the people and  
the land — they would by an overwhelming majority  
remain on board the Old Ship. I was in Lexington  
the other day — I to my surprise found there a  
gentleman of great wealth who is a member  
of our church — I to whom I had sent my paper  
thinking it doubtful whether he would take it —  
knowing that placed to be the Depot of Southern  
Influence — to my surprise when I said to him —  
tho — a Cotton planter — he declared he  
would have nothing to do with this Church State.  
Mark too a letter in the 16<sup>th</sup> No. of my paper from  
a Mississippian — W. D. Durbin.  
May God give the Church peace — but  
then from an endorsement of the seathing  
burning Curse of African Slavery.  
Keep us I can do with your prayer and your  
counsel I may God put us upon whom this  
curse has been entailed — O that I had never  
seen the evil. On the Death of my father —  
I came here to take care of those whom I could  
not free — because they then were I still  
are some of them held as apely in the hands  
of the slaveholders until the debt of the estate  
are liquidated. I had always said for my 6<sup>th</sup> year  
that I would never own a slave — I although I  
have a guiltless conscience — it is a matter  
of perplexity troubled. Pray for me — and will —  
help us with your counsel — God bless you forever  
in the Gospel — Evan