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Letter from Charles Elliott to James B. Finley & David Young

Charles Elliott

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ly. conf. use." None arose. The men proceed, "Those who
wish to join the O. conf. use." But none arose. An
exhorter said to the preacher, Brother put the question
right, and they will then vote. So the preacher, rather
unwillingly, put it as the exhorter advised as follows. "All who
wish to remain in the M. E. church use." Scarcely were
the words uttered, than they were all on their feet, in num-
ber 80. The men put the question "Those who wish to unite
with the M. E. church south use?" and not one arose.
Bro. Hope of Fulton has taken these into his charge. It is
said there are more than 800 members who remain

Rev. David Young, a
Rev. J. B. Hiley

Zanesville,
Ohio



firmly attached to our church within fifteen or 20 miles
of Cincinnati. They will adhere, and no man can drive
them from the church. Several preachers are very uneasy
on this. I feel like going on missionary to our scattered
and feeble brethren in Ky. and Mo. I have written you
with my long letter. But my heart was full. There
are many things I could not launch; but nothing of im-
portance. Write me. Cincinnati, correct, reprove as need be.
Rev. D. Young & J. B. Hiley, your son in the gospel, C. Elliott

Cincinnati O. March 2^d 1846
Dear brethren

I thank you for your reply to my last,
and I hasten now to send an answer, after, however,
a few days delay from the time I was intended to write,
occasioned by business. The very day in which I received
Dr. Bonds paper containing the article on reunion,
I lack the precaution to write to him stating, that if
I understood him, a reunion now, on such principles
as the south would agree to, would virtually recall
all the church ever did against slavery in the church.
It would acknowledge the correctness of the southern
movement, and would prove an undoubted and irresistible
element of division among us in the north. I received
an answer from Dr. Bond which gave me great sa-
tisfaction, and from which I make the following ex-
cerpt. "I am persuaded you do not understand the
hints in my editorial to which you refer. If you have
not in the slightest suspicion that I intend to propose
any compromise with the system of slavery, I may
you dismiss it from your mind. I am fixed and unalter-
able on this subject. Nor will I have any controversy
with you on any subject, satisfied that you are for
the church, confident in your sincerity and disinterestedness,
and taught by what is past, to rely much on your
judgment, I shall not persist in advocating in the
Ch. Adv. Journal, any cause, which the Western Chr.
Advocate cannot sustain. I am not sure that it will
be necessary to say any thing more on the subject as
which I have hinted. You see Lee has shot in my
face. The south might like a partnership in the Practi-
cal Union, but beyond this, I think the leaders do not de-
sire to have any thing to do with us. This must do.
If they wish to know any thing more about my pro-
posals, they must not only enquire, but signify their
own wishes. I am sure terms of reunion could be fallen upon
which would promote the common good, without the sacrifice

of principle on either side. But there is much else to be sacrificed, and I am inclined to think our southern friends are not disposed to make any sacrifices at all - at least of all at my suggestion." He concludes, with the hollow gratifying declaration. "One in heart and object - and so far as I know, one in opinion on the subject of an church difficulties, I am ^{very} sincerely, your brother in Christ." So I believe Dr. Brand and myself will be able to go on together maintaining an common cause with united endeavor, and I have no fears for the event. I wrote to Dr. Brand a long letter, in which I presented the outlines of the plan, of which the following is an skeleton.

1. The plan, either ab initio or de jure; or at least in its bearings, or consequences or connections, is unconstitutional; involving unconstitutional results in reference to the trial of members, appeals, disbursements of money; in all of which the act of the annual conferences is required.

2. The plan was never ratified. The ann. conf^s did not confirm what the gen. conf. recommended. Therefore the plan never had any binding authority.

3. The special necessity for it never was found.

4. The south have violated the principal conditions of it on their part, as follows. (1) The Louisville conven. taught its violation, in instructing their bishops to crop the line into the Baltimore, Phila. Ohio conferences &c to which the plan was inapplicable. (2) Bp. S. in his circular called on these conferences to organize. (3) Their bishops have impeded the plan by various official acts, instances, in Cincinnati, the Shenandoah Dist. and other places. (4) The aggregate number of the votes of the members in the border conferences have never been taken, in the border conferences of Va. Ky. Mo. without which these conferences could not form the new organization, according to the plan.

The truth is, the south have no solid ground to go on, according to the plan; as they seem to be reckless as to the advancement of the cause that would ensue it.

I received a letter a few days ago from Dr. Briggs, who has written to Dr. Cooper, in view of having the track-conference common property and conducted in common, on the condition of their harmonizing it, and then dividing with them

as heretofore. Dr. Cooper assents "with all his heart," but thinks Mr. Andrew will oppose it. Dr. Briggs has written to Dr. Payne but has received ~~no~~ answer. Dr. Briggs wants he to have the Southern Gen. conf. approve it, lay it before the N.Y. conf. at its next session, and then the other conferences, and have the whole ratified by an gen. conf. in 1848. He is aware to have any thing said in the papers on the subject, and wishes to know my opinion. I gave him in a long letter my views on this topic, with no encouragement to his plan, and I think my letter will end the business. I could not, in conscience, enter into any private measures to sustain or promote that which is as much the business of every other preacher, as of mine. I think it will come to nothing. Indeed I am sure of it. I mention to you two, the matter that you may both be on your guard. I have in preparation an editorial whenever it is necessary for me to meet the plan; but I think it will be dropped.

In a letter from my bro. Simon, P. E. of the Elizabeth City Dist., Va. he says that his District is firm; but that the south may, if they try, get here, and there ministers to go with them. In the Shenandoah Dist. Bishop Andrew, at the instigation of Bascom has authorized the P. E. of the Maryland Dist. to send preachers. The P. E. has done so; although there are no border circuits or societies which go south. They are sent to wherever societies, and ministers at that. and Lee pleads to occupy all the borders in the slave states. At the Maryland D. M. on the 21st 22nd ultmo, there were several local preachers from a distance in the received according to the plan; and they report many societies, and almost circuits which still adhere to an church but have no official shepherds; but the local preachers will serve them. In Georgetown, bro. Walker yesterday dedicated the new church of an adhering brethren in that city; but they are not recognized by an bishop according to the plan. At Ashbury 7 miles S. E. of Newport the people are again undivided before last. The southern preachers come on and preach, but they decline to receive him, and they were too stubborn to yield. But he at last unwillingly ~~but~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~note~~ ^{note}, and proceeds Mrs. Ware who wish to unite with the