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Letter from Augustus Eddy to James B. Finley

Augustus Eddy

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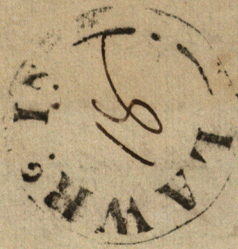
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Prize at Ledy
April 17 1846
Answered May 4

Paid 5



Rev. James B. Finley

Columbus

Ohio

Dear Bro. Finley, Lawrenceburg, Ind. Apr. 17. 1846

(49)

I have intended to write you a line for some time, but have been hindered by press of business. We are in pretty good health, and indeed my own health & that my wife has been better for three ^{years} ~~months~~ past, than it has been for 15 years previous. So far this has been a prosperous year - about 100 have been added to the Church, and better still there has been a general onward movement in the Church, and many have hungered, and thirsted after Righteousness and God has filled their souls with his love. And now if we had room I have no doubt that we should still ^{go} on conquering but alas our old lines will only hold about ~~\$7~~ 375 While Geo desire to come to our meetings. Well we have raised a subscription of about \$7000. to build a new Church, which will go up this summer - The labors of our beloved Bp. Hamline, were greatly blessed amongst us, and we esteem him one of the greatest, & best of men. Well the immaculate! Church South, have showed their love for their old friends in the North as the rogiers would say 'with a rush, especially in Wood Co. by indicting Uncle Charley & the M. C. Adv. What an argument this, for us to allow

them a part of our Church funds, to enable them to carry out the benevolent system of perpetual Slavery, which they have so zealously promoted for two years past.

I hope that you will succeed in your new and difficult work, and indeed I have no doubt of your doing so, if your health and spirits do not fail you. I now enter upon a delicate subject, (at least it so to me) upon which I desire you to give me your advice.

Returning after 20 years wandering to the neighborhood of my first Circuit (old Miami) as well as coming in contact with my old friends in the Ohio Conf. has waked up in my mind a strong desire, to return to my old home the Ohio Conf.

When I came to this Conf. I had two objects in view. First and mainly to assist a young and weak Conf. that had lately lost a Stranger a Lack, a Griffith &c.

2. To raise my boys to industry away from the evils of a city life. My reception in the Conf. was cordial, by the great body of the Preachers, but there has always been a minority who have envied me and made my path thorny (some that are Masons, Oddfellows & ambitious) but in the main the Conf. has

treated me kindly, used me well. But then at ^{almost} every Conf. that I attend, I am reproached with being influenced by my Ohio predilections and this is made to bear upon me at all times, more or less. Now it is true that I have always loved my "Alma Mater", and the men that made me all that I am, and I have never been able to see in the Ohio C. a rival of their younger sister (or daughter) Ind^a. I have labored to promote the welfare of God's heritage in all the charges committed to me, & I shall do so as long as I live.

With my feelings then, under all these circumstances, I have had & still have a strong inclination to ask my old friends to let me come to labor a little longer and then to die among them. My children are growing up and I shall soon have a portable family. I have sold my farm, and have all my business in a train that I can now leave without difficulty. Yourself & Bro. D. Young told me my feelings before I left your Conf. I have never felt myself fully at home in this Conf. & fear I never shall. I have now opened the feelings of my heart to one of the friends of my youth - Give me your advice. Part of this letter is for your eye only. Martha joins me in love to you & Sister Hurley. Rev. J. B. Furly In love. A. Eddy