

8-31-1846

Letter from James L. Mitchell to James B. Finley

James L. Mitchell

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Columbus Aug 31, 1846

Dear Brother Finley,

It is not with a view of prejudicing your mind in favor of, or against brother Moody's return ~~among~~ ^{to} us, that this communication is addressed to you.

But believing that you feel an interest in the welfare and prosperity of the church in this place, we merely wish to give you a candid statement of facts as they have occurred since your departure from among us.

It is lamentably true that there is at this time quite a feeling, among the members of the church with regard to brother M's return. This feeling was awakened by the circulating of a document, purporting to the conference that a change in pastors for the coming year was very desirable and even necessary to the wellbeing and prosperity of the church.

No petition for his return, has ^{been} gotten up, or even spoken of among the members of the church; Now is it at all strange, brother F., that we should be awakened up when we learned that such a document was to be laid before the conference?

We have heard no one expressing wishes otherwise than to abide the providence of God in the

Mr. Mitchell
from Columbus
1846



Rev. J. B. Finley

Member N. E. Conference

Piquette Mission
Ohio

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decisions of Conference without our request
or advise ~~upon~~ the matter
And in all probability should, had it not been
for the aforesaid document have awaited in, prayerful
submission the return of arrival of him whom
the Lord through the instrumentality of the conference
should have sent to labor with us,

Nor do we now desire to beg the conference for
any particular man, neither do we wish to
be understood as a church (as might be inferred from
that document) to beg them not to send brother Moody
among us again

We do not think it right or proper that such
a document should be laid before the conference, as
coming from the M. E. Church of this place, and
if it is, ~~we~~ shall show your rev. body by an
opposing list of names, that it is not the voice
of the church,

(With brother Moody's reception and success for
during the year past that he has labored with
us, as well as with ^{the} influence, wholesome, or
unwholesome which his department has exerted
within and without of the church, you are as well
acquainted as any before us, Therefore, with regard
to the propriety of brother M.'s return, you are
fully as well acquainted as we ourselves, also
with regard to the propriety of our staidly submitting

to be misrepresented in so gross a manner, as
by that document, you are ~~not~~ prepared to judge
It is not our intention to send any petitions to be
presented until after the document spoken of, shall
have been brought before the conference, Then, in justice
to ourselves, and in justice to our late pastor we can
hold our peace no longer, I remain yours affectionately
James L. Mitchell

N. B. I do not think that if there is
a change Bro. Gaster would be their
choice at this time of ~~feeling~~
excitement,