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James B. Finley Letters

2-8-1834

Letter from Henry Bidleman Bascom to James B. Finley

H.B. Bascom

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Aug. Coll.
8. Feby 1834.

My dear Bro. Kimley,

In two communications, one to the Board of Trustees, & the other to Bro. Fielding, Brother Collins of your place, has prepared a long list of pretty heavy charges against us, and it seems necessary to reply, at least, to the members of the Board of Trustees, in Conn^a I have written to you, & request you, to submit the explanations, to Brothers Spencer & Lawrence. Bro Collins says, 'When you have a meeting for important business, on Monday, give at least Trustees notice, before Saturday night etc.' now for the explanations. A meeting was appointed for the 22^d Oct, to set upon the endowment resolutions of the try & this copy. The meeting was appointed the 1st week in Aug^r and I gave notice myself in person to all the Trustees in Conn^a, at the time of loaf^s, & urged their attendance - the 22^d of Oct came on - not one attended - was this for want of notice? The meeting adjourned to Monday week - the secretary was to give you notice, but neglected it - so soon as I heard this, I hastened to write for and as soon as I found it was necessary, I have been not a little abused, by liberal friends in Conn^a - now why, is so much said, about my neglect, in the last instance, & nothing said about 2 months notice & nonattendance, does it not seem a disposition to find fault? Bro Collins brings up an old complaint against the Board, in which instance I think it likely he was treated ill, but why present it now, a majority of the Board consist of new members, since the act of his Trusteeship, & not one of the ^{present} Society, was in the Wth at the time. As it regards our not preaching more in Conn^a it must owe to you, that we are not under any more obligation to preach for you, than you are to preach for us -

A. W. Mason
1834

10

135
5
875

675
14

150

775

Dinner, &c.

Rev. James B. Kimley,

Augusta, Ga.
Feb 10th

We have preached for you, when we could, you have not preached for us or all.
In the case of Bro. Fielding, it could not be expected, for I have heard your leading
men, in the church, say, they did not want him to preach. Why blame him
then, for not doing it? He is opposed of these facts, and will of course set in
view of them. Can it be expected, that men will obtrude, when it is avowed, they are
not welcome. I mean in the pulpit? Bro. L. Cowd has often preached for you, ^{and} it seems
only to be blamed in company with the rest of us. As it regards myself, it merits but
little attention, I hear these things, in my own case, without emotion.
One thing more, about printing ^{our} circulars, not one of us knew there was a press in Lewis
belonging to us. When I got printing done there for the said copy, I called in open court
when it should be done? and not a word was said about the Backroom-press.
So, if blame attaches any where, it cannot be with us. Bro. Fielding left, before the circulars
were printed - he told Bro. Wright where they were, and when he could get as
many as he wanted, for the Back room, and Bro. Wright promised to call
for them accordingly. If then he did not, is Fielding to blame? has he violated his
word, as charged by Bro. Collins, in his letter, or note, to the Board of Trustees?

I have now perhaps said all that is necessary, as I shall probably see you shortly, on
my way to Louisville. None of my remarks are intended for you personally,
even for all those who have joined in this crusade of complaints against the
Teachers in Augusta College. We are not angry, but we are hurt, at the unreasonableness
the injustice of the treatment we have received, and are ready at any time, publicly
or privately, to defend ourselves, against all & every of these imputations.

I wish you to show this letter to Bro. Collins - say to him, I sent him the
circular, and then being in preparing for Examinations in College, I hated him
as I did others, wrote in none of them.

Your bro. truly

M. W. Mason

Rev. J. B. Finley.