

8-31-1848

## Letter from Joseph S. Tomlinson to James B. Finley

Joseph S. Tomlinson

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D.  
AUG 31  
K.Y.

Wm. James B. Finley,

Columbus,

Ohio.

Mail

Post  
paid  
Aug 28

Augusta, Ky.  
August 31. 1848.

My Dear Bro. Finley:  
Your kind letter of the 14th instant was duly received, but I deferred writing until after our Commencement, that if any thing especially interesting should occur I might communicate it to you. We have had a very interesting Commencement. There were six graduates, and the performances appeared to give general satisfaction. I believe I informed you at the general conference that the Suit against Parsons and others of the Ky Conf had been decided in our favor. Parsons took an appeal, but, as I understand, has concluded to drop it and is now paying over the money (about \$2500) to Gen. Saug as the receiver appointed by the Court for the benefit of the College. The defendants in the Suit at Louisville were required by the Chancellor to deliver up the scholarships and the notes on the Roberts' fund (about \$10,000 in all) to the Trustees; but the trustees were required to give security to Reuben Branch & others, that if the College should cease the funds should be returned to the Ky Conference. That was much as the Trustees think that the original contract did not require such security, and inasmuch as that Conf. has left the M. E. Church, the trustees

are not willing to give such security, and have directed their counsel to take the case to the court of appeals to have that part of the decision reversed, and if it should not be reversed in that particular, they can still get the funds by giving the required security. If you had the funds that rightfully belong to the institution it could live and flourish & perpetuity, and add greatly to the much good, which, as I think, it has already been instrumental in doing.

Bro Finley the work is so extensive and is so extending in this part of Ky that there ought to be a Kentucky District of the Ohio Conference of the M. E. Church, and with such a man as you at the head of it, we could, I am satisfied, gather into our fold a large portion of Ky Methodists. If any thing should occur to prevent my attending the Conf (and the severe illness of my wife) do interest yourself on this subject specially. There are frequent applications from societies in the interior to be taken into the old church, which our brethren have been absolutely unable to attend to for want of time.

The young man of whom you speak can be admitted on the McKendon fund without any difficulty. There is no opening for him as a teacher at present.

I concur with you precisely in regard to the proper course in reference to D. Latta & Co's paper. They are most woefully at a loss for something to hang a loop upon, and my doctrine is let them remain in that condition. The truth is, my dear brother, to use a homely phrase, it is the biggest slab that has ever been taken off of the leg, and, in my candid opinion it is also the worst one, whether we consider the man, the means, or the object. Let us leave them alone in their glory.

If at all convenient, I should be delighted, in passing through your city, to avail myself of your hospitable invitation.

With great respect & sincere affection,  
I am yours most truly,

J. S. Tomlinson.

Rev. James B. Finley.

P.S. Our next session begins the 2<sup>d</sup> Monday in October; send us all the students you can; none will be sent away if you send twenty.