

7-25-1840

Letter from William Neff to James B. Finley

William Neff

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Recommended Citation

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Cincinnati July 25th 1840

Dear Br Finley

I feel actually forced to

take my pen and acknowledge receipt of your long neglected favors or forfeit your friendship. I am at best a very indifferent correspondent, as you know, and since my constitution has become impaired by Dyspepsia, it afflicts me to write, not however so much but that I could have replied to your very kind letters, which is always a pleasure when I get at it, but my wife and myself have both been constantly intending to write you for a long time past.

The doings of Conference I presume do not all merit your approbation - it appears to me that whole proceedings were much lessened in dignity, from what it was in Cincinnati 4 yrs ago.

The Ladies Magazine to be published here is likely to have vast circulation - it will no doubt be edited by Br Hamlin, and if rightly conducted may be productive of great good in various ways.

Br Elliott has gone to New York to look into the subject of our Sunday School Library with the view to doing something towards its improvement here - he has gone "on his own hook" the agents here having refused their consent in the case - perhaps

PAID

Rev. James C. Finley

Lebanon Tenn

Ohio

Miss [unclear]

My anxiety on the Subject has somewhat influenced his
movements - I was in hopes that the late Conference
would have acted emphatically on the subject - It has
been, and is, woefully neglected, and there is no subject
to my mind, that we could look to for more happy results,
if properly attended to, than the Sunday School
cause - It cannot flourish under an present
Library, if such it can be called.

Br Wright by his movements at the Conference and
his coming back to the Book Room has not added to
his popularity.

We have just passed a peaceful & a very
Conference at Wesley - at the Lord's feast there
were nearly 2000 read into full connexion -
the young converts generally are giving fair promise,
altho a considerable number have fallen away.

Br Selvon is on a visit to his Parents, and Br
Gaddis' health is very delicate, that we are
almost without a Preacher - Br Latta has
made himself quite useful, altho his health
is very imperfect - he is likely to get along well
in his practice.

Br Durbin was expected in Down to day, but whether
he has arrived or not I cannot say - I presume

he will endeavor to revive the Subject of an Ohio
College, but the receiving the academy at Springfield
will I suppose prevent any ^{thing} further being done for
years - and until the general Conference takes some
action on the subject of taking all the professors from
amongst our strongest men in the pulpit, I think
there will be a difficulty in raising the necessary
means. When the services of more than one
is required in a place, as in our colleges, Br or
agents & Editors & - the President or principal should
be from the itinerancy, only.

We had some thought at one time that
we might make you a visit this season,
but the probability now is that we shall remain
in the City during the Summer - Our Peter is somewhat
unwell to day, otherwise we are all well, and
all join in love to you all.

I hope it will not be
long before you visit us -
I believe you have not since our
acquaintance been so long away at
any time -

Yours friend &
brother in
Christ
William Stief