

7-24-1845

Letter from Ivan Stephenson to James B. Finley

Ivan Stephenson

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Recommended Citation

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Pilgrims Retreat
July 24th 1845

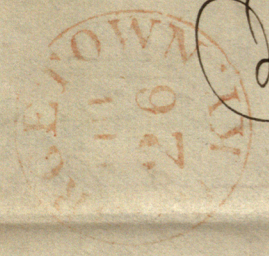
To James B. Stuley

Dear Father

I am in receipt of your kind favour detached under the roof of Mrs. Jane Taylor the estimable aunt of my beloved Lydia. I was highly interested and delighted with your letter on many accounts - only only regretted that it had not been designed for publication. We were happy to hear from our kind aunt - should you see her soon tell her we are all well should be very much pleased to receive that precious treasure. If I knew where to send your papers to they should not cost you any thing - only an effort occasionally to get up subscriptions. I did not get up my little paper for the express purpose of crossing Mr. Souths' Innovating Whiskered - (but the spirit of the late Convention was to my mind so utterly - subordinate & revolutionary - if not to the state - unquestionably to the Church - that I could not be silent - & I was impelled by a sense of justice to the persecuted & misrepresented Unionists & Conservatives of Ky - & Ohio - as well as elsewhere to utter my voice (feeble as I know it is) against the violence of the South.

of the firm
Geo. W. Stearns
1845

5



To James B. Stuley
Cushville
Harrison County
Ohio.

No man can feel more profound veneration for the
aged Veterans of Methodism who have borne the
burden & heat of the day - than does your humble
servant - (but even aged - & grey hairs cannot in
my estimation sanctify the unholy cause of Slavery.
Slavery is the abstract - when Memphis Reports
came to us of venerable men standing up in
said Conventions with the Bible of God in their
hands - as a plea for this foulest blot upon
the escutcheon of our Country & Gley - when
such men as Dr. Wm. A. - could declare that
he would vote for a separate organization
if he believed a Disolution of this Union
were to follow - I thought I should be true
to the consecrated principle of my Church &
Country if I held my peace. For this I have
venerable Sen been unadverted upon - (by
anonymous correspondents - who seem to
they would if they could thrust my soul & body
into Hell - & they again have read in
truly circulated it that I was an Abolitionist
&c &c. Enough of this tho. I wish you
would would again I give me your views as
to what you think should be done. (Casper July
with Dr. Lambson I give them your course -
For me I am determined to stay in the Methodist
Episcopal Church - until I am turned out
or die - Make a transfer to the Genl Conference
in the Indies. I do not feel the least alarmed -

W.B. The Mrs. Dolly came safely to land. Et

and I believe of the voice of the people and
we had - they would by an overwhelming majority
remain on board the Old Ship. I was in Lexington
the other day - & to my surprise found there a
gentleman of great wealth who is a member
of our church - I do when I had sent my paper
thinking it doubtful whether he would take it -
knowing that place to be the Depot of Southern
Influence - to my surprise when I saw him -
tho - a Cotton planter - he declared he
would have nothing to do with this Church State.
Mark too a letter in the 16th No. of my paper from
a Mississippian - W. Durrin.
May God give the Church peace - (but
then from an endorsement of the seathing
burning curse of African Slavery.
Keep us Dear Sir with your prayers and good
counsel I may God judge us upon whom this
curse has been entailed - & that I had never
seen the evil. On the Death of my father -
I came here to take care of those whom I could
not free - because they then were I still
are some of them held as apely in the hands
of the Adversaries until the debt of the Estate
are liquidated. I had always said for my 6th year
that I would never own a slave - & although I
have a guiltless conscience - it is a matter
of perplexity troubled. Pray for me - and will
I help us with your counsel - God bless you forever
in the Gospel - Evan