

12-11-1848

## Letter from James B. Brooke to James B. Finley

James B. Brooke

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New Castle Dec<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> / 48

Dear J. Father

I avail myself of another opportunity of addressing you. I have rec<sup>d</sup> no news from you since you wrote to Chas. and me in connection. Since that time we have been grievously afflicted we have all shared in the fall fever of this section & Margaset was in very low stage. But thanks to an ever Merciful Creator we the creatures of transgression were not cut off but yet a longer probation allotted us. It has not been generally very sickly through this country this summer & fall. Yet amongst what cases do occur considerable fatality is connected with them.

We are at present making an effort to build a Methodist Church in this place we have considerable opposition in it as we will have one in no other way than under the direction and Superintendence of the M. C. Church as laid down in their discipline. A Majority want a free church; but I for one will not give one cent for such an one. But as we are making an effort I want to succeed. and were I only clear footed I could make one out of 20 that could build a House ourselves and be independent of so much freedom as they wish in this place. And as we have made the Start and know we are right we will go ahead. If I had an assistant I would undertake to furnish the shingles for the Building which would be 10 or 12 thousands. Shingles here are worth \$3. per thousand and that amount would be more than I could go under existing circumstances. Our sickness has cost me some \$30 besides help in House and loss of time. If you can solicit \$15 or 20. in your region of Labor and remit it to me you & I would furnish the shingles for the whole House on the ground. If this should meet your views send on if not suggest any thing and I will observe the lay of the ground. I went home to see you the very day you left for Columbus Mr Reid of this place told me on Sunday you would be up & as you did not come on Monday I started on Tuesday to see you. but you were gone I wished to see you much

I wanted to know about many things of you amongst which I have named one the very important one. I am very anxious to have this place become more civilized and Christianized or I can not think it a pleasant place to make a home for a very long time. Ignorance and vice are the predominants yet we have some good men in this country and plenty material to make improvement on. Any amount you could raise for us from among your friends or the friends of Christianity will be cordially and thankfully received. Charles & family are well and wish to be remembered to you. Please answer this as soon as convenient and accept the best wishes of myself and family for your happiness here and hereafter. Am. A. Wash.

Rev. A. A. Derby  
 J. B. Procter

2 B. B. Booke  
 Dec 1844

Rev. James W. Derby  
 13 St. James  
 Boston Mass

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New latitude  
 12 Dec