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James B. Finley Letters

4-15-1847

Letter from Samuel F. Cary to James B. Finley

Samuel F. Cary

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CARTERS ACADemy
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Rev J. B. Fairley D. D. W. P.
Columbus Ohio

April 15 1847

Samuel May

Temperance Cottage
Apr 15th 1847

Venerable and worthy Brother

Although it is late at night and I have already written letters enough this evening to make a pretty good mail I cannot resist the inclination to write a few lines to you. I sincerely sympathize with you in the afflictions you have suffered since we met. The divisions entrusted to your care have such unbounded confidence in you that they will regret your inability to perform your official duties. The persons to whom you entrusted the work have discharged their duty faithfully and made their reports. To see a veteran soldier of the Cross in his old age buckling on his armor and going forth to engage in a new warfare against the enemy of the souls of men is a sublime spectacle. You have witnessed in this great valley the ravages of intemperance for perhaps forty years and doubtless have wept and prayed over the desolations of Zion growing out of this vice. I can imagine how your soul is rejoiced to see in these last days a movement having direct

to this monstrous evil. Oh that more
of the Watchmen upon Zion's walls would
unite with us in our holy warfare.

Venerable Father, it is my deep seated
conviction that nothing but a kind
Providence originated our Institution
and the conviction is alike strong that
without the sympathies, the prayers, the
support of God's people it cannot
have a permanent prosperity. We
who believe in the religion of the Lord
Jesus Christ must of course ever regard
that as the great center of all our hopes
and the rallying point of all our efforts
but it is necessary to get possession
of the outposts of Christianity, and they
should be well fortified and manned
by those who love the Saviour. I am
a son of Temperance, not for personal
honor or glory, they are but dust - but
that God may be glorified and man
blessed. So long as our Order shall accomplish
either of these ends (and in securing the one
the other must follow) I shall cling to
it and labor and pray for its success.
But I cannot pursue this train of
thought. It does me good to commune
with a scarred veteran of the Cross
whose active labor must soon close in

this field only to enter upon as I believe
a wider, higher and nobler field of
usefulness in a better land.

But I cannot close this hasty note without
expressing my ~~interest~~ ^{solicitude} for those poor unfortunates
more particularly under your paternal
care, I mean the inmates of the Prison.
I long to be with them to do them
good and encourage them to abandon
all the courses of vice & crime and look
for happiness to its high source. Express
to them my deep concern for their
welfare. I do not so much desire to
see them at liberty in the world ~~as~~
as ^{that} their captive spirits may be freed from
the bondage of sin, and rejoicing
in that liberty when with Christ doth
make free.

It is growing quite late and
I must bid you adieu

Yours in L P A Y
Saml. F. Cary