

2-23-1814

Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley

John P. Finley

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Bro. Ratts has fits of the worst kind to live he has had them ever since last spring was a year Father & Mother with all the rest of our relations about New Market as far as I know are at present well

February 23^d 1814

My Dear James { Last evening I received a letter from you and was extremely glad to hear from you that you were measureably well and especially that you were still bound for Heaven May the L^d speed your way - We have been and are still much afflicted I myself have been confined to bed with the pleurisy and rheumatism The Children have had the Jaundice and this ~~day~~ will make the 32^d day that your Nephew James has been totally confined ~~to bed~~ with the malignant pleurisy and he is now not able to turn himself in the bed, he is a mere skeleton being so reduced by his disease, I have spoken frequently to him about death, he ^{once} said he wished to go to Heaven ^{if he died} for there he would see his Uncle & Aunt, his Grandfather, his father & Mother We do not discover many symptoms of a recovery It may preponderate in his favor but cruel death appears to be very near The Lord do what seemeth him good and give us a perfect resignation - I feel great depression of spirits occasioned I suppose by the fatigue that I have had with my afflicted son but my blessed Lord props up this house of clay and kindly lengthens my reprieve Oh may I ever walk in him and nothing know beside - - - I feel some anxiety to come and see your country this spring - but feel almost determined to move my family there this Summer if you are fixed for life I will come and settle for life close beside you Sally and myself are both very anxious for such a situation - Lord fulfil our large desires

17
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I have declined a settlement in Cincinnati upon the account of its being so sickly and a few other things - My school has terminated for the past year and I am about to set down here again - during this term I intend to prepare for a move and hope that providence will open my way - My circumstances in life are small but thanks be unto him who fed old Elijah we have plenty to eat and wear but have not laid up any treasure on earth My expenditures the past year have been more than common since last winter Sally has not been able through debility & nursing to provide any thing for clothing I have had and still have all our spinning weaving and most of our sewing to hire together with bills created in consequence of our many afflictions make my purse small, but bless God we have a golden treasure above which we daily enjoy I am a few cents in debt but have a platter as large as the ear - This term if there is no preventing providence I can certainly save as much as will fix my family near you but if I came there you must not take wings and fly away - If you have any call for school Master I can supply you and by that means procure a support for my family - Dr Rott has been living with me for some time past I have given him 9 months schooling and 3 of boarding, he has had some deep awakenings of soul but hitherto has shaken them off, he has left this place and gone to Newmarket I am afraid he will not get religion soon - Father Strane was here a few days since he now has Susan and himself living with Richard & Betsy Susan has a young one and both her and the old Man are in a lamentable situation she can neither spin sew nor knit or scarcely clout her child - I know not what they are to do - he says that the rest of the family must support them - William Strane is married to the great Widow Betsy Bartlett, how they come on I am not able to inform you they live at John Evans' on Strait creek

My Land suit remains undetermined, I suppose it would have been tried last court if the Judge had been present how it will terminate I cannot tell I submit it all to God - Brother & Sister Haugh and family are well sometimes Joseph is very sweet & sometimes very sour I let him take his course and I try to keep mine I think Hannah is more engaged for heaven than she ever was but I think he is one of the pharisaic cast Bro Medsker lives in this neighborhood he is a good Man and she too I hope but she tries to set herself up for great things and but little thought of - I have some friends and an enemy or two but I can pray for them and forgive ^{them} Preachers should above all people should love and be united, but frequently they will persecute one another - I would tell you who it is that tries to injure me, but I feel disposed to bear it as persecution and therefore will not reveal it - I am done with earthly things, I think both me and Sally prosper in the divine life - I am bound for heaven sweet heaven my everlasting home - There is truly nothing like religion it bears the sinking spirits up, it brings to life the dead - Lord help me ever to enjoy it I ever wish you to locate till you locate in glory I must finish your my desultory letter by praying our blessed Master to convey us safely home, if we should never meet on Earth what a meeting we will have in heaven, Halleluiah Amen, I am your affectionate brother who never will forget you

John P. Finley

Receive our warmest respects yourself and present them to our dearly beloved Sister, not forgetting little ones our children send love to their Uncle Aunt & Cousin, James although sick and scarcely able to speak expresses the greatest concern about the little worm on your face he told me that I must write you that he thought Jacoon root would cure it

Revd James P. Finley