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James B. Finley Letters

9-9-1848

Letter from Squire Gray Eyes & John M. Armstrong to James B. Finley

Squire Gray Eyes

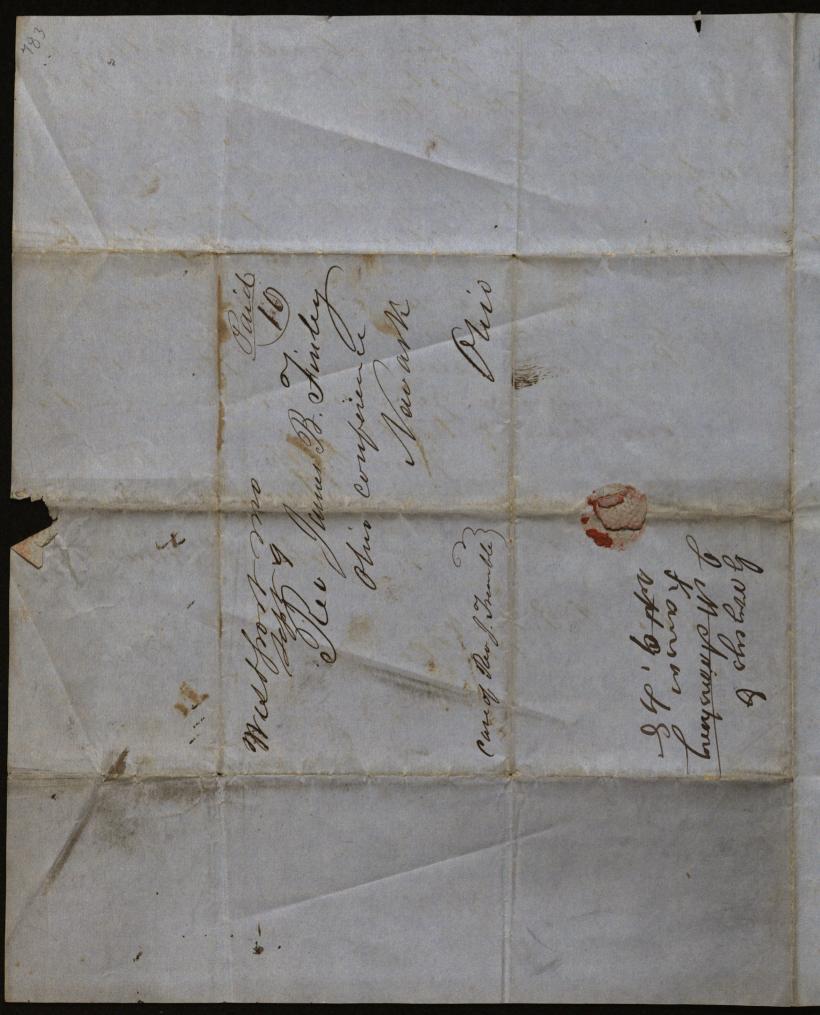
John M. Armstrong

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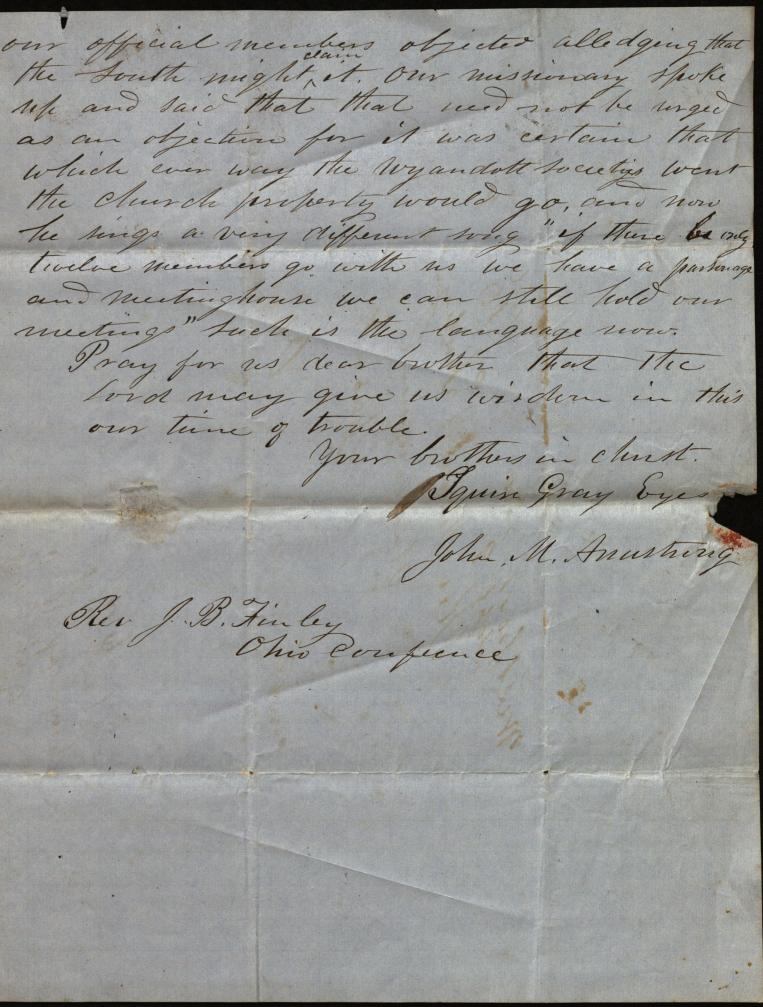


Wy and Mation Left. 9th 48 Dear Brother Junce The meeting of the offical members of M. C. Church here, whose proceeding were sent to you informing gove and the Ohio Conference of its decision. The eveny has been at work. It seems that our slavedealing Mutherianes are willing to resort to any means What ever to maintain their graish when the Indians. here in the to yandolt reation a mut: = ing was got whe composed of nonprofessers glandealers infidely mebriates and backs - suders and passed a certain preamble and resolutions and sent them to the Ohio Con. Now-we solennly protest against the proceed. ing of that meeting having any force or validing whatever. In the first place it could not be cade a reational meeting Theme being but 47 loyandots present. In the second place a large majority of Those present were not members of the church It is reasonable to conclude that there were some present who would write out of the world religion Aself were A in Their power of their couce in life is any indication of tentement. Un deny the nght of any tuck body to dectate interfer or intermeddle in clunche matter as recretary the man whon name is appended volved himself in slaving tickore we came to

This country. The professes no religion, spinds whole weeks in a reightoning village in a Mate of intoxication, a man toto has done more than any other ten men in the nation to lead our young people into habits of intemperance. Tuck is the man who is the master Aprivit of the faction got sop a favor of the new church and with his and have succeeded too well in durching our ranks. Old man Hecks This two sous A. A. Hick & Little chief and David young of the official members Thave deterted our old Ship. At a meeting of the official members These four better agreed to come back and May with us if a majority of the member. ship decided against them. but having had time to consult their advisors out of the Church have see repused to comply with then agreement. Our present missionary has deeply gulled and betrayed us, he that always held out the idea to us that he was nother in his -tentements and that he might when a suit = able opportunity presented itself go with on rather remain with us in the old church but his subsequent conduct shows that his pretentions were shallow and deceptive When we were about to adopt meannes to exect a new church building some of

meetings" tuck is the language now.

Rev J. B. Finley Ohio Confince



GrayEyes_ab783

Wyandott Nation Sept 9th '48

Dear Brother

Since the meeting of the official members of M.E. Church here whose proceedings were sent to you informing you and the Ohio Conference of its decision, the enemy has been at work.

It seems that our slave dealing missionaries are willing to resort to any means whatever to maintain their grasp upon the Indians. Here in the Wyandott nation a meeting was got up composed of nonprofessers slave dealers infidels inebriates and backsliders and passed a certain preamble and resolutions and sent them to the Ohio Conf.

Now we solemnly protest against the proceeding of that meeting having any force or validity whatever. In the first place it could not be called a national meeting there being but 47 Wyandotts present. In the second place a large majority of those present were not members of the church. It is reasonable to conclude that there were some present who would vote out of the world religion itself were it in their power, if their course in life is any indication of sentiment.

We deny the right of any such body to dictate interfere or intermeddle in any church matter whatever. The man whose name is appended as secretary to the resolutions referred to has involved himself in slavery since we came to this country. He professes no religion, spends whole weeks in a neighboring village in a state of intoxication, a man who has done worse than any other ten men in the nation to lead our young people into habits of intemperance. Such is the man who is master spirit of the faction got up in favor of the new church and with his aids have succeeded too well in dividing our ranks. Old man Hicks his two sons (F.A. Hick & Little Chief) and David Young of the official members have deserted our old ship. At a meeting of the official members these four brethren agreed to come back and stay with us if a majority of the membership decided against them. But having had time to consult their advisors out of the church have since refused to comply with this agreement.

Our present missionary has deeply galled and betrayed us. He has always held out the idea to us that he was northern in his sentiments and that he might when a suitable opportunity presented itself go with or rather remain with us in the old church but his subsequent conduct shows that his pretentions were shallow and deceptive. When we were about to adopt measures to erect a new church building some of our official members objected alledging that the South might claim it. Our missionary spoke up and said that that need not be urged as an objection for it was certain that which ever way the Wyandott Societys went the church property would go, and now he sings a very different song. "If there be only twelve members go with us we have a parsonage and meetinghouse we can still hold our meetings." Such is the language now.

Pray for us dear brother that the Lord may give us wisdom in this our time of trouble.

Your brothers in Christ

Squire Grey Eyes

John M. Armstrong

Rev. J.B. Finley

Ohio Conference