

4-26-1826

## Letter from James B. Finley to John Johnston

James B. Finley

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### Recommended Citation

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you can make all the necessary inquiry of  
them about affairs and then report it to Mr  
Walker and try to spread it every  
where else if you can not injure me  
or fair & just allegations do it you do  
other things I am yours  
J. Johnson

As if you have any demand to  
make out I am ready to offer  
what I have there - nor may you  
expect to squire me on any  
account

Letter to Jno  
Johnson on the  
Subject of Slavery  
and  
and

749

Mr Sandusky date 24 1846

Mr Johnson Some time has elapsed since I  
have attempted to address a few lines to you since  
what time I have been confined and still am with  
much afflictions In your last you requested me to  
give my opinion with respect to procuring the Indians  
The reason I did not answer your request was I  
thought that you long since knew it and that  
you did it to try to involve me in some difficulty  
as I have the honor to differ very widely in  
this as well as in other respects from you in  
my opinion & in the Impetuous manner in which  
you wrote that they must & shall & although  
it was rather the language of self importance  
than that of the government & I had no  
right to make any demands of me or any other  
officer under you as you were not instructed  
by your superior in office nor by the government  
it plainly shew'd to me a premature zeal un  
authorized either in your instruction or in your  
pretation to the Indian & they had not with any  
type of propriety state it as coming from you  
to the Nyanotts for I wish to see men act  
consistent with themselves & their Indians look for  
it do you remember the Council you held with these  
people in the Missin Posture and what you stated  
to them as your last dying words mean to sell them  
land no exchange for this the only spot you have on  
earth and the moment you sell this all is gone  
and you are ruined for ever look said you  
at your brethren the Delawares who were persuaded  
to sell & so west of the Mississippi they have written to our  
letters of sorrow & how they are ruined now if

you should tell your lands you will be  
thrued as bad as them and farther before  
I would suffer myself to be employ'd as a commis-  
sioner to come to purchase your land I would  
Resign my office as an agent Now Sir these  
Protestations you made in my hearing and that  
of others who remember them well  
How does this look with you Present unanswer-  
ed questions to affect the Poor & needy  
you ought as a man professing Christianity  
to be ashamed of such a course  
However if you can so easily trifle with you  
Publick vows I assure you Sir My Soul shall  
not come into your secret

and as you have given freely what the report says  
about my trying to injure Capt Cops what  
is founded in falsehood suffer Me to  
say to you not behind your back

That there are many conjectures about your  
unanswer'd zeal to move the Indians  
there are suspicions that you are trying  
to aim a deadly Blow at your Superior  
in office and who by the by has Impudence  
enough to differ from you in opinion  
about the <sup>plan</sup> ~~Execution~~ set on foot by  
& others and the opinion is that you wish

if the said should happen to pass in any  
shape to have your self appointed a Commissioner  
or that this I think will not do you know  
unpopularity would for that besides the  
Indians have no confidence in you your  
coming changes your sentiments so quick  
thence you very suspicious

Sir Sir after these plain statements (which I  
hope may prove what I desire they should convince  
in your Breast of the folly of your course and  
bring you to consideration & Reflection) I hope  
you will not think me your Enemy because  
I have told you the truth I heard a letter  
a few days since stating that the first Plan was  
abandoned & I have received Mr Barbours  
report it is plain that the Disapproval of the  
Plan of Moving but if it must be  
it must be by the Consent of the Indians  
Now would you Sir like for Capt Cops to  
Sop a Law to transport Every Irishman  
to Botney Bay or out of the United States  
and with as much Justice and with as much  
humanity May you send purchased  
these Poor helpless Indians to go to  
their own Discretion to fortify a few  
covetous Land holders such a Design  
they God will not let prevail  
as it respects My self no Power shall  
compell me to advise these My Christian  
Brethren to a step at in My Judgment and  
in the Judgment of Many Juster than  
that will exterminate from the face of the  
Earth if they must die because they are  
Indians Come & do as the did for the  
Succowas kill them all at once  
This is what Many want Blood & Land  
Come and take Boath Now Sir you have  
got my sentiments I hope you will let me all  
and I shall let you and if you should  
see any more Indians from this Country

Finley\_749

Upper Sandusky

April 26, 1826

Mr. Johnston

Some time has elapsed since I have attempted to address a few lines to you. Since which time I have been confined and still am with much afflictions. In your last you requested me to give my opinion with respect to moving the Indians. The reason I did not answer your request was I thought that you long since knew it and that you did it to try to involve me in some difficulty as I have the honor to differ very widely in this as well as in other respects from you. In my opinion 2<sup>nd</sup> the imperious manner in which you wrote that they must & shall. I thought it was rather the language of self importance than that of the government & 3<sup>rd</sup> you had no right to make any demands of me or any other officer under you as you were not instructed by your Superior in office nor by the government. It plainly shew'd to me a premature zeal unauthorized either in your instruction or in your relation to the Indians 4<sup>th</sup> I could not with any degree of propriety state it as coming from you to the Wyandotts for I wish to see men act consistent with themselves and these Indians look for it. Do you remember the counsel you held with these people in the Mission pasture and what you stated to them as your last dying words never to sell their land nor exchange for this the only shot you have on Earth and the moment you sell this all is gone and you are ruined for ever. Look said you at your Bretheran the Dellawares who were persuaded to sell & go west of the Mississippi. They have written to me letters of sorrow and how they are ruined. Now if you should sell your lands you will be ruined as bad as them and farther. Before I would suffer myself to be employed as a commissioner to come to purchase your land I would resign my office as an agent. Now Sir, these protestations you made in my hearing and that of others who remember them well.

How does this look with your present unauthorized exertions to afflict the Poor & Needy. You ought as a man professing Christianity to be ashamed of such a course. However if you can so easily trifle with your publick vows I assure you Sir my soule shall not come into your secrett.

And as you have given freely what reports say about my trying to injure Capt Cass which is founded in falsehood, suffer men to say to you not behind your back that there are many conjectures about your unauthorized zeal to move the Indians. There are suspicions that you are trying to aim a Deadly Blow at your superior in office and who by the by has impudence enough to differ from you in opinion about the exterminating plan set in force by \_\_\_ & others and the opinion is that you wish if this law should happen to pass in any shape to have your self appointed a commissioner. But this I think will not do. You know \_\_\_ would \_\_\_\_\_ besides the Indians have no confidence in you. Your language changes your sentiments so much renders you very suspetious.

Dier Sir, after these glum statements (which I take may prove what I desire—Men should convict in your breast of the folly of your course and bring you to consideration & reflection). I hope you will not think me your Enemy because I have told you the truth. I received a letter a few days since stating that the first plan was abandoned and I have received Mr. Barbours report. It is plain that he disapproves of the Plan of Moving, but if it must be, it must by the consent of the Indians.

Now would you Sir like for Congress to pass a law to transport every Irishman to Botney Bay or out of the United States and with as much justice and with as much humanity. May you scare and persuade these poor helpless Indians such as to go to their own distruction to satisfy a few covetous land holders. Such a nefarious thing God will not let prevail.

As it respects myself no power shall compel me to advise these my Christian brethren to a step that in my judgement and in the judgment of many others. And these men that will exterminate from the face of the Earth. If they must die because they are Indians come and do as we did \_\_\_\_\_ with them all at once. This is what many want Blood or Land. Come and take Boath. Now Sir you have got my sentaments. I hope you will let me alone and I shall let you and if you should see any more Indians from this country you can make all the necessary inquiry of them about affairs and then report it to Mr. Walker and try to spread it everywhere else if you can not impose me a fair and just allegation. Do as you do other things. I am yours.

J.B. finley

PS If you have any demand to make