

1-12-1838

Letter from Stephen H. Holland & G.G. White to James B. Finley

Stephen H. Holland

G.G. White

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Recommended Citation

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Oxford butter. January the

Dear Father Hinley I embrace the present opportunity of writing to you on the subject of my departure from Oxford. perhaps Dear sir you may think it strange that I have come to the conclusion that it is best for me to leave Oxford but when you hear the reasons I hope that you will not think it strange or wrong to say the least I have made it a subject of much prayer to God. I need not mention my last years afflictions unless I would just say that these past afflictions has so completely shattered my constitution, that I fear it will be sometime yet before I get the better of them: I have not tried to preach but since our Quarterly meeting and it was only trying for I had not strength to preach. I can assure you that I have no alternative in going home & only to change my exercise and by so doing I believe by the blessing of God I shall regain my former health: and I further believe that preaching is injurious to my health while I am thus afflicted. I am well aware that an itinerant life is one that calls us to make many sacrifices and this I think I am willing to do, but I am conscious that he does not require us to labour when we are not able and I can say of a truth that such is the state of my sister's thro' 15 month afflictions that I am conscious that I had better stop preaching until I regain my health. again I have been sick 15 months from home. and to lay sick much longer from home I cannot for I have no doubt but you know something of the difficulties of laying sick from home. and as I am not a heart to preach I shall start home in a few days. I hope that you will agree with me in this course for I do not wish to do any thing that is contrary to the Laws of the church or your views. but I must go home until I regain my health. when I have health I stand ready to march at any time: but when sick and afflicted as I have been and still am I must have some of my own views and in some degree pursue that course

James B. Hinley. C. &
 Highville
 Ohio

FILED



Oxford
 Highville
 Ohio

which I think will be best calculated to regain my
health and I confess in all this I may do wrong but I hope
not I am gratefully pleased with ~~of~~ and we have
good times here I think a heart so has joined the church
here since our Quarterly meeting commenced and
never has I felt ^{unwilling to leave my place} ~~that I have~~
~~these~~ ^{of my affairs} ~~but~~ afflictions compell me to take
this course. Br. Irvine is here and will remain
here until he hears from you by letter I
think his preaching will be well received here but
I think it will be impossible for him to govern the
church I had a talk with the official members
a few evenings since and from what I could learn
Br. Conroy ~~is~~ ^{is} would be well received
and brother Irvine is willing and ready to get on
either of them here and fill their place on the
circuit. I wish you would write to me and let me know
something of your mind and health and direct
your letter to Ebenezer C. Carmichael so
I remain your unworthy but sincere Br

Rev^a James B. Finley
Stephen A. Holland

P. S. I would just say that I shall be glad to return
here to my work or else where, as soon as I get
a sufficiency of health. but I fear that will
not be soon, as a preacher Br. Irvine will do
well here

Hoped
Jan 12th 1838

Dear Bro

We very much regret the
necessary arrangements ask^d for in the above epistle
We have no doubt of the reasonableness of the request
made by Bro H. we hope therefore that you
(whose right it is) may feel dispos^d I find it
convenient to acquiesce in granting to that
(worthy officer of the M.E.C.) the necessary furlow
as far as (its possible) the Church may (in future)
be efficiently serv^d for years instead of a few months

At our last official meeting it was the
General opinion that if practicable for you
to supply the vacancy (as mention^d in the above
communication) that Bro H's course was judicious
It was also the wish of S. meeting (if agreeable
to your views) that the Station be supply^d
in the absence of Bro H) by the Rev W. Gates (or
submitting at the same time with due deference
to any arrangement made by those having the
right) of the Rule over us, During S. Interim the
vacancy can (I no doubt will be) acceptably fill^d
by that mysterious talented & master Spirit from
the Emerald Isle our esteem & worthy Bro Finley
who may with proper (Church Economy) & the
Blessing of Heaven, be made a bright & shining
Light in the M.E.C. — There are to be seen in
the distance some good effects of our late I. & I
I see hope by the Co. working of the Spirit
the Church & the Irishman to see better days
very soon for which help us by your prayers
is the earnest solicitation of your (unworthy
friend) & Brother in Tribulation

G. G. White