

9-23-1836

## Letter from William S. Hutt to James B. Finley

William S. Hutt

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146

W. H. S. N.  
1836

Rev. James W. Finley  
Chillicothe Ohio

Kanawha Court House Oct 23 September 1836

Dear Brother  
 Stranger as I am personally to you, I take the liberty to address a few lines to you in charge of James W. Finley. The subject is a very delicate one, but the more I reflect on it, the more I am persuaded, it is my duty, Conference is on the eve of their annual meeting. The supply for the circuit involves a great and important trust - that duty can only be well discharged by the Bishops, when proper representations are made by the presiding Elders, and, how delicate the task. If they conventionally discharge that duty, how often they may be charged with partiality. I have no fear of Bro. Young tho' I thus speak. I had a few words with him on that subject a few days before he left us, on the propriety of sending Bro. Baldwin to take charge of this circuit. I was induced from considerations of the debt that is hanging over us on account of the church, to suggest, that it might be advisable to appoint him. but on a more mature reflection I do not think it advisable that Bro Baldwin should be returned to this circuit again. I have recently learned there are ~~great~~ objections, and it seems increased objections with a number of our friends, that his labours among us might not prove as beneficial as could be desired. reference may be had to Bro. Young & W. W. Finley in whom you may with confidence rely.

as respects the temporal affairs or debt <sup>in consequence of</sup> the building our church in Charleston. I presume hundreds might be selected with equal or greater certainty of attaining that much desired object - I therefore solicit your interest (coupled with your long experience) in selecting some well experienced (what I understand) preacher, well experienced in word and doctrine. &c. &c.

It has been in contemplation to make some alterations in our circuit, making Charleston something like a station connecting however the chapel at the Saline & Welch's church together, a very agreeable station - I am almost prompted from my feelings, and great good that might grow out of a conference

of pastor and flock, to wish you would, or could be prevailed upon if consistent with your duty & inclination to spend at least one conference year in Charleston. Consider your knowledge of methodism and experience a discipline I think would be blessed to our growth in grace. We

I was some what flattered with the hope that you would have visited us during the conference year just expired, I still hope you will make it convenient to come to Savannah we should be much rejoiced to have with us a father in Christ so well able to instruct and confer

parson the liberty I have taken in addressing this imperfect epistle to you but believe me in the sincerity of my heart

Yours Bro. in Christ  
James H. Faily  
Wm. H. Butt

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

*[The reverse side of the letter, showing the back of the paper with some faint markings and a large dark hole.]*