

7-13-1838

## Letter from Francis H. Jennings to James B. Finley

Francis H. Jennings

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Paid 10

Washington 24th

July 13

Rev. James B. Finley  
Ridgeville

Warren Ct  
Ohio

Get my  
Dressings

Washington Fayette Co. Ohio July 13<sup>th</sup> 1838.

Dear Brother Finley,

Think it not an  
 imposition offered to you, when I tell you I write  
 you because, I have always delighted to hold a  
 converse with you, It is true I have not written to  
 you for the last 9 months but though I have  
 not done it it has not arisen from the circum-  
 stance I have not been willing to do it but  
 from the circumstance you did not answer my  
 last, Perhaps you did not receive it.  
 You no doubt have heard I did not take  
 the Circuit assigned me at the last conference  
 & you I did not, I give it not from con-  
 siderations, 1<sup>st</sup> I thought it was done through  
 the influence of Father Quinn who I believed was  
 prejudiced against me, because I said he was  
 not competent to discharge the duties of a  
 presiding C. in the district, and that the dis-  
 trict had not a Finley - 2<sup>d</sup> Logan Circuit was  
 a laborious circuit of 23 appointments,  
 and my health being very poor, I was unable  
 to discharge the duties of preacher in charge.  
 3<sup>d</sup> The Circuit was poor and when I went to  
 it I could get no place for my family, and  
 would have gone though I did nothing, and  
 lastly some of your best friends and mine  
 an Deer Creek Cir, advised me not to go -  
 that under the circumstances which I then  
 was it was doing me injustice, I think Br.  
 Finley I was treated badly - I have treated 5  
 years I never flinched, I was as far as I  
 have been able at my part.

And if Mr. Quinn had done as I think and  
many others, I would have been sent back  
to the Circuit you left me in, where I was want-  
ed, though I had not been able to preach  
but the cry by Mr. Quinn was I was not able  
to do the work on the circuit which they sent  
me to a much harder one, I would not  
wish you to conclude that I wish to sneeze  
or shrink from my duty no, I feel as strong a  
desire to travel as I ever did, and to die in  
the work but my family holds a station in  
my affections, too strong to be ~~dismissed~~  
doomed to misery, when I think it could have  
been easily prevented, I have stopped in this  
place and have been practicing for my living  
and reaching every Sunday when able, my health  
is entirely I think recovered, and though my  
practice is worth from 10 to 12 hundred dollars  
this year, if the Conference will give me  
work where my family can be provided for  
I leave it and sound salvation, I should be  
glad to hear from you, as soon as you  
get this, Dr. Truett has been sick nearly 8 mo,  
he was taken with congestion, which ultimately  
terminated in an apoplexy, which will not  
take him from us, his health is very poor, his day of trav-  
eling is forever done, and some doubts are enter-  
tained whether he will ever fully recover,  
This district so far as I can here is not in  
as prosperous condition as when you left  
it, I fear excepted, This Circuit is in a  
low condition and if Conference does not send  
good strong men here next year it will take years  
to bring it up to what it has been,

My wife sends her best respects to you and  
Cester family, and so does Dr. Truett & wife.  
If they do not please me at Conference I  
would be glad if you think me worthy  
to get in your district, My God every blessing  
and keep you

Pray for me,

every yours,

F. H. Lanning

N. B. Whilst Dr. Truett was  
able to travel on this circuit, he was  
universally beloved, and no man has ever been  
in Washington who has been better received  
and if his health had held out it thinks  
he would have done good business,  
The 11th mo he laboured faithfully, I think  
his intense labour was a means of his  
prostration,