

Philander Chase Letters

12-12-1805

Letter to John Reade Esquire

Philander Chase

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WILLIAMS RESEARCH CENTER

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Dear Mr. Richmond.

Thank You for your interest in our collections.
Enclosed is the Philander Chase letter which you
requested (MSS 338). Please sign the enclosed
research request form and send it to:

Mark Cave
Archivist
The Williams Research Center
410 Chartres St.
New Orleans LA 70130

with best wishes,

Mark Cave

KCHDS 1212

My dear Sir,

If I can judge from your former
 resp. to me, it will make you glad to hear of
 my safe arrival at this place, with a passage
 of 24 days; a period shorter than what is usual.
 With the testimonials, which I brought with me,
 my reception was flattering; and the polite treat-
 ment, I have since met with, opens favourable
 prospects. I have agreed to settle here, with a
 salary of \$2,000 per ann; together with the use of
 a large and convenient house, and the usual perqui-
 -sities, which are considerable. It is agreed that I stay
 here until the 1st of May next, to collect the Congre-
 -gation, and make other arrangements; after which
 time, I shall, if it please God, go to the States, & once
 more have the pleasure of seeing you & your good fam-
 -ily. My stay in Cough-, however, must be short, leaving
 to visit my friends in N. Hampshire, adjust all my
 business, and be here on the 1st of Oct^r next.

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The prosperity of your Church in Cough- ^{is now,} and
 ever will be dear to me; tho' the treatment for matrid-
 -als was such, as formed strong motives for reforming.

To my friends please to make my warmest compliments,
 and to my enemies say if you intend to say any thing,

"that I bear no malice nor hatred in my heart!" To the Vestry,
as such, I beg you will be so kind as to communicate the
following as official.

To the Vestry of Christ Church, Poughkeepsie.

Gentlemen;

I take the liberty to signify, that I have
resigned into the hands of the Right Rev.
the Bishop of the State of New York, the Rec-
torship of the Church to which you are a
Vestry;

With sincere wishes for your
prosperity, I am,
Gentlemen,

City of New Orleans Decm^r 1805

Your friend, &
Humble Serv^t;

Philander Chase.

If I attempted to give you a description of this Country,
this City, and the manners of the people, it must, in
the small compass of a letter & that too, things occupied
by other matters, be but an imperfect one.

The Country all along the River has elevated land, of
the finest quality sufficiently deep, or running back
far enough, to make a fine plantation, with between 30
& 40 acres in front. These are cultivated in the raising of Corn
Rice Sugar Cane oranges and grapes. No manure is
ever wanted as the fecundity of the soil is inexhaustible.
The City is about 1/3 larger than Albany, situated on

the bank of the River, with a spacious harbour capable of containing ships of any burthen. Has two Banks a Principal, or large public building, for the purpose of holding Courts &c, a jail - a Convent - a Roman Catholic Church, a Government house, and a number of large store houses and other Military buildings capable of accommodating 1000 Troops.

The Climate is said to be rather warm & sultry in summer at times; but, for the most part, the heat is assuaged by the sea breezes, which blow from 9. in the morning till 4. in the afternoon: in the winter the air is mild & grateful beyond description. Since the year 95, the City has been visited with the Yellow Fever twice - one of which visitations was in the year 1804. The inhabitants, like those in York, are beginning to prepare Country seats, to which they may retire, ^{with the utmost safety} during the 3 warm months. The greater part of the inhabitants speak the French language - the Americans, however, are fast increasing, and the state of society improving. A fine field, as any on the continent, is opened for the young & enterprising, either in Merchandize, or any of the Mechanical arts. If it be probable that I can succeed in sending you some of the golden fruit of the Country. viz. a box of oranges, I will do it. But they are so large, & ripen so quick, with the small frosts they have here about this season, that I am afraid shall not succeed. Pray make my best respects to Mr. Reade, to your worthy sons, and amiable daughters. I am, dear Sir, with the utmost esteem, Yours
John Reade esq.
New Orleans Decem^r. 12th - 1806 Philander Chase

John Reade Esquire

Longhempie
Worke

To John Reade Esq^r

New Britain 12th Dec^r 1885

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