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Letter to Rachel Denison

Philander Chase

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Dear Sister.

Poughkeepsie no 28
K. Ch. [1001128]

If I were asked the question: what worldly pleasure was the one on which I got my heart the most? I would say that it is that of seeing yourself and Dudley and his wife at our house this winter: - and I am of opinion that Mr Chase would subscribe to the same answer if the same question were put to her. - We talk of this at our rising up at our lying down - We talk of this when we sit around our little fireside; when my wife hath laid by her knitting work and I have laid aside my book and pen. We count the weeks that are to pass before your arrival - we number the days in the ark before us. Do not disappoint us - if you do you'll break our hearts.

You will find us living in a plain homely stile with no ornaments but peace, and no riches but the blessings of God in a competency and good consciences. Mr Chase has fought hard against a discontented spirit that had begun to rise in my ingrateful breast - The dear woman has almost conquered. - The truth is I am away from my dear relations - my murmuring heart begun in my heart and made their way in sighs and moans; yet I wish I strive to be content - God has cast my lot here and has given me an affectionate congregation of Christians around me to make the burdens of this life set easy. Are they not friends and relations to me? They must serve as such till we all meet in heaven.

I am very much confined - to make two sermons a week, read what is necessary for that purpose and to do the other duties of a Parish minister is almost too much for me.

Just after the news of Cassia's death,
departed this life one of our best friends,
a woman of great goodness, purity and
charity to the Church, in this place -
How seldom is one afflicted without its
fellow!! afflictions? to whom? to us;
there we hope it is joy unspeakable.

I preached a sermon upon her death which I will
read you when you come and see us. -
I wish that I could have attended the funeral of
our Cassia. How feelingly do we speak and
how profitably do others hear when the heart
is engaged - when we have reality set before our
eyes.

I have been of late on a visit to New York -
The vestry of St. Mark's Church in that place
have given me a call to come and be their Preceptor
this for reasons which I will tell you, I have
refused. Tell our dear Father I love him
it seems better than ever and Mother too
- pray him to write me a letter a mile long
when you come, about Church and State
I will send him a new Publication equal
to the scholar's Armory if he will send
me 16 Doll. They came out in the form
of a Magazine in numbers and are now
enough to make 6 large volumes -

The title is The Anti-Jacobin Review
criticisms on
Mountains, every thing both Religious Moral
and Political. He will be delighted with it
If he wishes to have this, desire him to send me
word soon that I may procure a full set for
him from New York.

I wish you would forgive the errors of this

letter. Continue to felicitate me all the
news you can any ways pick up - do
not forget the least circumstance that
relates to any story of importance for
the world. My duty to Mother, tell her
I would ~~very much~~ ^{be very much} obliged to her for
a good Tub of butter this winter for your
hands. If she says "yes" to this tell
her I will pay her as much as she can
get in time for four ~~cash~~ ^{cash} ~~right~~ ^{right} ~~now~~ ^{now}
on the nail. The article is too dear here
for poor folks to use. Write to Dudley
and tell him not to forget the 40
Martin skins for the world nor the
garden feed.

And what I most positively enjoin
on you dear sister is to burn this
heap of nonsense up as soon as you
have set your eyes over it. It is
so foolish that I dare not read it over
for fear it would receive the same doom
from myself.

Love me as you always did. Our best
love to Selley and the little girls.
yours

P. C.

May 17

Miss Rachel Chase

Cornish.

To be left at
Win for P. Office ~~ben~~ M.