

# Kenyon College

## Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange

---

Philander Chase Letters

Archives

---

5-29-1801

### Letter to Dudley Chase

Philander Chase

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digital.kenyon.edu/chase\\_letters](https://digital.kenyon.edu/chase_letters)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Chase, Philander, "Letter to Dudley Chase" (1801). *Philander Chase Letters*. 17.  
[https://digital.kenyon.edu/chase\\_letters/17](https://digital.kenyon.edu/chase_letters/17)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Philander Chase Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact [noltj@kenyon.edu](mailto:noltj@kenyon.edu).



Dear Brother Dudley.

Poughkeepsie May 29th 1801

I never have been more highly delighted

than when reading a Poem lately published in England, entitled The Farmer's Boy. It is written by a Mr Robert Bloomfield - who was for some time a waiting-boy to his Brother, George Bloomfield and some other shoe-makers in a poor dirty garret in London: afterwards the little Hero was taken by his uncle into the Country to be Larkey for the dairy and farmyard.

Here, in this latter place he learnt from real nature and actual experience how to give the natural and beautiful tints which now adorn his little charming Poem. He has divided his work, after the Manner of Thomson, into 4 seasons. But so far from being a copyist, that I am astonished that a person who was so fond of The Seasons as we are informed Mr Bloomfield was, should have been so originally independent of what Mr Thomson has written, when dwelling on a part of the same subject of unadulterated nature. But it seems that the fund from which real genius draws her Treasures, is inexhaustible. Perhaps I have been more delighted with the Poem by reason of its treating altogether upon such things as have from the beginning been my delight; and upon such actions as I myself have over & over again performed, with a very little variance of manners & times. If, when I was very young, servant and Post-Boy to all in my father's Family, any one had attempted with equal ability to describe the scenes thro' which I scribbled he could not have done it more perfectly than it is already delineated in the character of Giles. The poor fellow (for in this character Mr Bloomfield has given a faithful sketch of his own life) tries thro' many a difficulty, without murmur or complaint, the lute of Midwile and Dapster among them all.

It seems that it was his duty to go some distance from his house every day during the fore-part of the season to see that no birds beasts &c &c had molested the wheatfield. After doing this part of duty and returning home to the farmyard, and dairy - he thus most elegantly depicts his situation and circumstances attending it.

"This simple errand done, he homeward hies;  
Another instantly its place supplies.  
The clattering Dairy Maid, immersed in steam,  
Singing & scrubbing 'midst her milk & cream,  
Balls out "God fetch the Cows"!! Giles hears no more  
For pigs and ducks & turkeys, throng the door,  
and sitting hens for constant war prepared.  
A concert strange to that ~~late~~ which late he heard.  
Straight to the meadows then he whistling goes  
With well-known halloo calls his lazy Cows;  
Down the rich pasture heedlessly they graze  
Or hear the summons with an idle gaze  
For well they know the Cowyard yields no more  
The tempting fragrance nor its wintry store.

※ The singing of all sorts of birds, beautifully described as he went to the wheatfield

I have not selected these lines as being peculiarly beautiful; there is hardly a line in the whole poem which is inferior to these. The



strangest part of the business it - That the Author (who had returned from the country and became a Shoemaker in London) composed, corrected, and committed the Poem all to memory before he wrote a single word of it on paper; and this while at work on his seat amidst the noise laugh & chit-chat of a whole garret of Shoemakers!!!! This properly and due attested in the Book.

While reading this little work I wished a thousand times that there was some way of surprising you with the possession of so rich a Prize. But this for want of all mode of conveyance was denied me.

Dear Brother I do most sincerely wish you to send to New York to get this little Book it will be the most delicious morsel you ever tasted.

Your wife's letter gave us much satisfaction and comfort Besides relieving us all, ~~the~~ the whole town - all our neighbours at Fishkill &c &c &c, from the most horrible and dreadful apprehensions with which we were ever afflicted. Apprehensions that increased with the lapse of time and with the innumerable times they were reciprocally repeated between all my neighbours every time they met for 6 months upon the stretch.

Oh that you were all cast away upon the broad Drowned in the Thiver, or had gone to the Buggs!!!

If I had not ~~crooked~~ crooked my elbow against the least semblance of a falsehood I should have told my neighbours - the folks who <sup>heard</sup> were so highly delighted with your company that I had ~~from you~~ from you, merely to spare myself the pain of thinking & saying that a Brother had forgotten, after so perilous a journey to tell me whether he was dead or alive!

We mourn for little George - not that we doubt your goodness - no - our hearts overflow with gratitude unfeigned to you continually. But the thought of his being our Son and still away from us causes many a bitter sigh! However since Mrs Chase has become the Mother of a third her attention seems diverted from George

But from my mind the little fellow is scarcely ever absent. Philander still grows, and is one of the largest Child of his age in the County of Dutchess - We are still undecided what to call our George the Third - He however deserves a good name for a finer Boy never taught his parents. If you will write in season you shall have the honour of naming him.

I have taken two young Boys, Sons of a rich Gentleman in New York - they are some trouble but, still I am glad to keep them. for the things hoped for I have £100 per year, for keeping them - ~~two~~ <sup>two</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> at the same price, are expected soon.

Mrs Chase grows better every day - for you must she has been very sick again, with the pleurisy, attended a discharge of some blood at her mouth. Thank God she recovered. I am very healthy myself - afflicted nothing but occasional attacks of my old complaint the head-ache. My affairs I think are growing better, our Churches in shape, over which I am, and others are building up in the neighbouring town. ~~by~~ by the means of my exertions. Still why do I long to go back to New E.B. I can give no better reason than that I have nobody here but my poor wife to wear mourning for me when I die. I do believe there is some among my kin who would serve me on some other motive than that of getting my money, which concerning the people here I can hardly say.

Good Brother Farewell - Our best love to Olivea Kiss George a thousand times for his Parents letter

Mrs Chap will answer O's, as soon as she gets well enough - You do not know how much Polly was comforted by the reception of your wife's epistle.

My love to all Brothers Sisters & friends! Philander Chase



17  
Dudley Chase <sup>Esq</sup>  
Randolph  
Vermont State

Wm. L. Chandler  
Roughneck

to  
rel  
your  
Pres  
Comm  
Dr  
app

Laura Smith Collection