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Letter to Dudley Chase

Philander Chase

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My dear Brother: Nothing but a combination of indispensable cares, and a constant succession of business of the utmost importance to myself, would have prevented me from answering your most affectional before this. Yet, long as it is, since I received it ~~yet~~ its contents are fresh in my mind, and the sentiments it excited in my bosom, thrill through every vein and every recollection. May God Almighty, before whom we stand, who hath fed us all our life long to this day bless you my dear Brother, for the kindness you have ever manifested towards me, particularly in your last visit to me. Your advice sunk deep into my heart & by the soothing of your fraternal conversation was my heart cheered. Since the dreadful fit of sickness, in which the malady terminated, my health has been gradually improving, till it is reestablished beyond any most sanguine expectations. After the intermitting, the dregs of my first complaint, left me, (which was not till midwinter) I have been perfectly well; my mind is serene as the vernal day; and study & the discharge of my duty are again my delight. With gratitude do I look up to Him "who ruleth the hearts & wills of sinful men" for these benefits. You will, no doubt, rejoice with me in like manner, as you mourned with me when in trouble, with all your heart and soul. I know of but one thing that hangs heavy on my heart; and that is the consideration that I have not seen my dear, dear Boy for such a length of time. Nothing but your charity, (for such I should esteem it) in bringing the little fellow to see us can

relieve me from this most unpleasant of all reflections. I am so completely tied to my concerns that a Galley slave is as much at liberty as myself. What will you think when I tell you that I have nearly 80 & soon shall have one hundred Scholars a considerable part of whom board with me? We have already made the building one third larger than it was & soon shall be in want of still more room. Two large Parishes still claim my constant attention besides occasional visits to neighbouring Congregations. From all which should be absent even one month the most serious consequences would ensue. But busy as I am I could still find time to entertain you & ^{your} wife & dear George with pleasure that I can not describe. Times are changed, dear Brother, & I long to have you participate with us, in viewing the health and happiness which we enjoy.

I have, in company with Mrs Chase, visited New York in three of our vacations. To purchase necessaries for the family call'd us thither: yet in accomplishing this end was not our chiefest pleasure — Our friends in that place seem'd to make it a festival; and during the week we tarried we broke bread from house to house daily; joy beamed in every countenance & I believe Mrs Chase never enjoyed a happier week in her life. The Clergy made me preach in Trinity & St. Paul's —

My Brother in Law J. Fay is with us yet & most happy I am in his society. You would be surprized to see how he has improved both in manners and learning. At present he is an assistant Teacher in the Academy, & performs his part with great care & satisfaction to us all. At his request this spring we made exertions to get him into a store in New York but found the business so much crowded that we have given up the chase for the present. I think it may be as well for him; for he is not only making progress in school learning but is now busily employed in learning instrumental music.

I wish you would write to me the Minutiae of all your affairs & of all our friends. Tell George that he has a Father who thinks of him & prays for him every day of his life. I would I had opportunities of sending him books &c more frequently. Don't forget to learn him his catechism. It is in the spring time of life that the good seed is sown into ^{the} bosom which will grow up & bring forth the fruits of virtue & piety to make glad the City of God. Remember me affectionately to Mrs Chafe your wife & to Parents & Brothers & Sisters. Again I pray that God may bless preserve & keep you all. Philander is a fine boy & learns "stoutly." He sends his best love to George whom he talks of unceasingly. Adieu dear Dudley.

Dudley Chafe Esqr
Dutchess Academy June 13th 1806

Philander Chafe

June 13th 1805

W. H. Anderson

W. H. Anderson

Dudley Chase Esq^r

Randolph

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