

9-12-1807

Letter to Dudley Chase

Philander Chase

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My dear dear Brother;

N. Orleans 12th of Sep. 7
K. Ch. 070912

I was this afternoon, in town, & learnt, there is a vessel to sail tomorrow morning for Boston. This was at so late an hour, and having so many things to do, that you must not think hard of it if I am not so verbose as usual.

Though I am well - very well - yet I am, some what low spirited. I have not heard from our folks, from my dear boys, these many days - and from you in particular, I have had but one solitary letter since my arrival in this place. At first, I attributed this to the reign of Terror, and the general and unblushing practice of pillaging the Post Office, then in vogue; but as those gloomy days have passed away, and still nothing from you I am chagrined - I am vexed.

Surely I have misfortunes enough, in this naughty world, without adding to them the mortifying the distressing, of losing ^{one} the kind affection of the tender sympathy of a Beloved Brother! What can I do? I have not the heart to repent, by a sullen silence; and I feel too keenly to write, without remonstrating. Pray make me some excuse, I don't want how slight a one, so that my honest pride ~~that~~ in the fond belief that I was beloved by you, may be gratified.

Our Church affairs look rather gloomy; the prospect of a war with England hath a stop to every thing. The ameri-

earn, who are here, on whose liberal donations the Church was supported, finding the source of their wealth fail. begin to fail themselves, at least in such matters wherein legal proof is out of the question. Then again perhaps I might ask myself another of the same old woman's questions What shall I do? - Shall I turn Planter? or shall I return with my fingers in my mouth, and have those of others pointed at me in scorn? As to the former. I could say necessity has no law -; and, under the intention of continuing such only a few years until the storm should blow over or that I had obtained sufficient property to keep me from this unpleasant dependence, the measure would be justifiable; perhaps laudable in the eye of Duty. But I have not the means to commence under favourable circumstances. The loss of my property by sea and that of a servant (who was artful beyond measure having connived, as is strongly suspected with a pretended master to rob me of his price 550[£]) and the leaving of my house and lot in Brighton ~~un~~fold, put it out of my power to help myself. Think how I must have been mortified, this day when a Bargain, which I consider to be such in the highest sense of the word was broken off for the want of - The Needful.! Yes my dear Brother two thousand Dollars in sixty days and one thousand

more in six months and rest 4,100 on a credit of 15%
would have put me in possession of an estate on which
I should move with moderate force and have no
more than ordinary prosperity would be worth in
ten years from 15 to 20,000 Dollars - and should
sugar works be erected would be increased above twice
that sum. It is on the Mississippi 18 acres fenced
in front and forty acres deep with cattle, horses,
hops, farming utensils and a family of hardy Ger-
man Presbyterians consisting of Man wife grown
boys and girls who have yet above 2 years to serve me.
They say that their Capt. sold them for ^{us to the}

But all this is superfluous - and I write it because
I can't find any thing more amusing at present
Drink by & bye you'll say is confining my fate
barren enough. I repeat it I do not know
what to do - Already do the Church (if such a
body of heterogeneous querities can be called) owe
me 1,000 and nothing going on that looks
like stability!! - But my Brother, I almost
blush for my infidelity! May God pardon the weak fears
of erring man! may God forgive the shameful dis-
trust in his goodness and protection which this letter
discovers. Do you forgive it also dear Dudley!

Mary is now as she has been for several weeks past
but indifferent in her health; she joins in kindest
love to you & Mrs C. and our darling boys. When you will
see us again God only knows.
Re C

1808
Hickman's Sept 19th

Dudley Chase Esquire

By the Brig Exchange Randolph

Capt. Coarse who will be Vermont

kind enough to put this in

C. Office Boston

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