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Letter to Dudley Chase

Philander Chase

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New Orleans April 2 1809.

K. Ch. 090408

My dear Brother;

Your good letter of the 16th of Jan: has lain by me unanswered for nearly three weeks; which is longer than ever has been before to any you have ever had the goodness to send me. The cause of delay was care distress and trouble. Some time I apprehended that I had made up my mind to return to the states. This opinion and determinations of mine being expressed the vestry of the Church and Congregation, though suffering under great difficulties on account of commercial embarrassment came forward in great earnest. All agreed to patronize a school for the present and to allow me \$10 per month for day school and 100 per quarter for boarders, number limited to 15. This is now in operation and wants only 2 or 3 if being full. This earnestness on the part of my flock compelled me to delay if not to alter my plan. The vestry meet today at which meeting I was present to open the same to tell them my mind and to retire. What they will do I know not but from all appearances they seem determined to do every thing in their power to pay up arrears and to go on "gladly" in future. What is due me on the year present amounts, with the old balance, to above 3,000. The embarrassment which this Deficit must have occasioned to me, shows a great part of it in small sums, must be obvious to you. Thus in giving you an excuse for my great neglect of you I have given a history of my affairs; which to you who love me may not, can not, ^{be} be interesting. I tried to submit with my lopes and after that to my disappointments with that Resignation which is peculiarly the fruit of our Common Faith. Whether I succeeded or not in any shape God has been pleased to pity me perhaps for the sake of my dear wife and innocent babes.

Your letter gave me great satisfaction. The style in which you mention "the Lads," our darling boys is peculiarly flattering to a Parent. Their solitudes to please and entertain their aged Grand Father affected us with an indelible emotion. My eyes were filled with tears before that touching Paragraph was half finished. — Our dear Mother you say is better! God be praised. Often have I blamed myself for leaving them in their declining years and depriving myself of the pleasing duty of contributing among their numerous offspring, to smoothe their path to the grave with the cheering hope of a future Reunion.

As to the matrimonial connexions of our dear Nieces I believe we must be content with their choice. If they are united we have little reason to be otherwise. They have my prayers for their prosperity and happiness.

Brother Barnum's kind mentions of me which you send to demand my warmest acknowledgements. If to be remembered by friends has ever been deemed the source of the tenderest of pleasures — what must be mine to be beloved by Brothers who are so dear to me! Brother B. has several times written me as if persuading me to come and settle at Portsmouth; and had that Congregation behaved with that frankness which I always loved — and applied to me directly without seeming play so much be kind the curtain I think there has been a time when would have gone and taken my lot with them; but the time has now passed forever.

That you mention in reply to my statement of the number that died in this City last Summer of the yellow fever is quite natural — but when you are told that but very few instances of death occurred but in persons addicted to extreme intemperance you will see no reason to sup

hope our dear Boys would have been of their number.
My dear Wife with myself is quite well: she mentions
you and your dear Wife with tenderness almost every
hour of the day— Pray remember her and me to our
darling Boys those dear subjects of our nightly
dreams.— That the blessings of Heaven may be
upon you and ~~there~~ is our ardent & constant
prayer.

Since writing the above — a member of the Society
has called on me warm from their meeting which
it seems was quite numerous and very animated.
His words are that now he gave ^{me} to understand
that now I may consider myself quite at ease
for that measures were taken to secure a future per-
manency. The known character of this gentleman
for correctness in judgment gives me great reason
to hope well. Our Congregations are quite large
and our Communion well attended — and should
Commercial troubles cease a Church will soon
be built — Should this last be realized I am
fixed for life. —

Pray excuse my incoherent loquacity — Such a
letter I have not written this many a day — Bye
Variety I hope it will please you

Many God bless you — Your affectionate
D. Chase Esq — Philam^r Chase

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Dwight Chase Esq
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Vermont

Wilmington
April 1868