

5-30-1809

Letter to Rachel Denison

Philander Chase

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K. C. 090530
New Orleans, May 30th 1809.....

My dear Sister:

Your letter of Nov^r 20th 1800. came to hand yesterday: although late, yet like the evening shower after a thirsty day is was indeed refreshing. It affected me exceedingly. Few things of the kind ever, in the course of my life, came nearer my heart. You must look into your own tender heart to know the cause of this. The days of our infancy - where were they? the months and years we have past and play'd together - gone indeed - but so sensibly brought before my remembrance ~~was~~ by the affection and flowing tide of fraternal love poured forth in your letter!! I thank you, dear Sister, I thank you.

The illness of our dear Mother and the forgetfulness of our hon^d Father had before come to me through various channels. - Am I never to see them more? - All my fortitude forsakes me when I think of it. - Exiled as I was, born down by many losses, few things have contributed to make me even wish to live save a desire to do my duty and one more to see & to bless and be blessed by my dear Parents and friends. This in part I fear is now denied me - My dear my honoured Father & Mother I shall see no more true in visiting the graves of my ancestors. O God Thy will be done! Support us & banish every unavailing sigh at the dreadful ravages of Death by a full belief in that Resurrection of Thy Blessed Son wherein Death was depriv-

— of his King and the Grave of his dominion
— This dear Sister is the sheet anchor to all our hopes
Once for all has this grand enemy and disturber
of all our peace been foiled— once for all has he owned
the power of a Rising and Conquering Saviour.—
And ever and anon is the promise made to us that
if we die with him unto sin, we shall live with
him, soul and body, in his eternal kingdom.

We were greatly delighted to hear of your health and
prosperity. May God continue these blessings many
many days. You ask for our prayers— You have & shall
continue to have them. God is our witness how we have
and still continue to ask for his choicest blessings on you
Our dear Sister let us make the same request of God
Of this every moment as I advance in life do I see the great
necessity— of the impotency of man— the necessity of
divine grace, and of the unsatisfying nature of all
earthly things.

Of our dear Sons we had had later accounts than the
state of your letter would admit. nevertheless that you
see and converse with them frequently and love them
and call them good boys, gives us much joy.—

They will and must come to me for a few years
I can no longer exist without them— They
haunt my pillow by night and follow

me in every path by day. Indeed I think in leaving them behind— even in the case of the best of Nieces and Nunts; I did not do well.

But be that as it may— The time has come when I must see them; and to this request of a Father who asks them only on a Loan for a few years— to learn and speak the French and Spanish Languages, their Uncle as ^{well} as ^{he} loves the cause will consent. To finish their education ^{where} ^{fast and} undoubtedly will, God permitting, return ^{will be} northward.

The health of Mrs Chase, I think, grown ^{growing} ^{ed!!} much better. She is certainly much more healthy this summer than she has been for ^{many} ^{years}. ^{At} ^{times} she is much ^{complained} ^{of}— As to myself— (let me mention it with gratitude to the Author of all good things) I was better. Perfect health as I can imagine comes ^{ings} ^{have} us to attend me.

My worldly affairs are beginning ~~to begin~~ ^{to} look for the better, and we hope soon to extricate ^{ourselves} from the difficulties consequent on our misfortunes. Our Church grows in numbers & waxeth in importance; so that we hope for the best. As to my going away the Congregation will not hear a word of it. ^{How affectionate}
Mrs Rachel Denison ————— Bro. Philander

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John Mordaunt
Robert

By Mr. Convent

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will carry this out tomorrow —
 Oddy & I talk over a great deal
 continually. These dreams are most
 but to make & find them nothing more
 is equally harmful —