

9-10-1810

Letter to Dudley Chase

Philander Chase

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New Orleans Sep 10th 1810.

K.Ch. 100910

My dear Brother: Just three months from the date of your letter of the 7th of June it was received. The cause of this delay I understand to have been some new but unsuccessful arrangement of the mail. Late as it came, however, it afforded us pleasure which we can not describe. In point of fraternal affection and domestic intelligence it exceeds; and in so doing fulfills our hearts best wishes. Receive our warmest thanks, dear Brother, & be assured that our prayers to God in your behalf are very fervent. Long may He preserve and bless you!

I am rejoiced to hear of the continued health & quietness of our Hon'd aged Parents. To see them once more I feel to be one of my fondest wishes; which, if not gratified, will constitute a severe trial of my faith & resignation to the will of Heaven, than, perhaps, my Maker has seen fit lay upon me. The excellent description of your visit to them, in my last, makes me fully sensible of this. What would I have given to have been with you! Their retired repose is the exact thing for which I now sigh; and if gilded by the bright, mild, beams emanating from the declining days of dear Parents it would be the one plus ultra of my fondest wishes. Long situated of the world, I have, ever and anon, dwelt upon something like this: yet this - alas! when will it be attained?

What you say of the dear, darling, Boys is no less satisfactory than the news of our Parents. Their progress in learning, their continued good health, their increase in stature, and above all their approved moral deportment. prompt the frequent the heartfelt sigh of gratitude to Heaven and you; as well they may: for he who is not religious & gratefully moved at such tidings as these must have a heart of stone.

Relative to the subject of their going to College so young I am most sincerely and decidedly opposed to it. Though your arguments to that effect seem not only to be dictated by an unbounded zeal for the boys welfare, but good sense & much sound reasoning. My wife and self have, however, canvassed the matter both pro & con; and tho' we have great confidence in the discretion & good understanding of their proposed companion Salmon C. Cotton our excellent Nephew, yet all things considered we dare not venture them. They are not & can not be as yet sufficiently armed with reason & good principles to combat the enemy - an enemy more formidable, exhibit

at College than any where else in the whole circle of Society. Pray therefore dear dear Brother, let the matter rest for the moment. If they want subjects for study turn their attention to reviving and to Geography. Penmanship and a familiar tho' chastised style of writing might well occupy several months: nothing they will assist them more in pushing their way thro' a world governed principally by their eyes and fanciful tastes.

While I was writing the above another good ^{letter} from you dated Albany Aug. 8. was handed me: and as I am now about it I shall take the liberty of condensing my answer to both in one. — Your attention to my request in attending to my Cough & business keeps up the flame of gratitude in my bosom which is now more than ^{I am} well express to you.

— My affairs however, have turned out badly — and were I not before, I am now convinced that nothing of mine ever has or ever ~~will~~ prosper in that devoted Village — If when I first came to this country I had taken my wife along with me and abandoned all my property there to the Vestry, Sexton, and other prowling harpies, I should have been the gainer — for the money that I took ^{back to Col. when returning from my first visit} hence ^{statement} almost doubles the sum which I find by Mr. R's will fall to my share. Why has every passion which I had with so much labour & vexation earned there been punished with such dreadful fury? — Consider the unparalleled robbery committed by those who professed to be Curators of the Lord's inheritance — behold the angry Billows and winds armed against the remnant I had embarked for this place and then look at Ruggles' statement. There is a Superior and invisible Hand that has ordered all this for my punishment and my trial. I submit and must and will believe all is for the best. —

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