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Letter to Hobart

Philander Chase

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Hartford June 27 1816

To The Right Rev: Geo. H. Hobart,

Bishop of the Prot. Epis. Church in the State of New York, and of the Diocese of Connecticut

Right Rev: Sir;—

That Mr. Geo. Leonard, formerly a Congregational minister in the town of Canterbury this State, having with apparent sincerity conformed to the Church, came to Hartford, about the commencement of my last sickness, say 6 weeks ago.

As we had several vacant parishes in our neighbourhood, I persuaded him to stay, and officiate among them as a Lay Reader, intending to obtain permission for him so to do, as soon as might be of the Standing Committee. The violent disorder of my bodily health which soon followed, prevented the fulfilment of this design, and also my attending the convention. Having, since my convalescence, learned that you are elected the Bishop of this State, and presuming, from good authority, that ere this, you have had the goodness to accept this election, I write to you as my Bishop, with due respect, in favour of this said Mr. Leonard, begging permission for him to officiate as a Lay Reader among us according to the Canon.

Should it be in your power in the course of this summer to visit us, (which event we ardently wish) it is the intention of Mr. Leonard to apply for Holy Orders of Deacon. And, in case he should prove a proper person to be admitted to the ministry, We hope for the favour of his being ordained by the laying on of your hands in our little, but most interesting, Church at Hartford.

There is an entirely new Church formed at Bolton (10 m. east of us) none of whom ever recd. the rite of Confirmation. They wish to receive it; and if I could be assured of your coming here in the course of this summer or of the probable time, feeble as I am, I would endeavour to visit and prepare them according to the Rubric.

Pray write soon to
Your dutiful presbyter
Phileas Chase

THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
170 CENTRAL PARK WEST, NEW YORK CITY

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Archives Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

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