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Philander Chase Letters

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1-19-1818

### Letter to Philander Chase, Jr.

Philander Chase

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K. C. H. 1801/19

We have petitioned for a College in this place & leave has been granted by The Legislature To bring in a bill. What success it will meet with I know not. It is now pending. — — — — — Nothing is certain I have done all in my power to aid the project. Nearly one fortnight I spent among the great ones from Little Town, in explaining and pleading for that which it is so much for their own benefit to grant. Before I close this you'll know our fate.

I have preached before the masters of this state and have been treated with great kindness. The Sermon is printed by both the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter for sale. I may send you a copy. The title of the Discourse is "Christianity and Masonry reconciled." It was well received.

And now as to things near home; tho' nothing can be near my heart than your Mother's health The Church of God and the interests of Literature. I mean them, my own domestic concerns. I suppose you've been this, w<sup>th</sup> your Mother's letter written since we moved into our new shell of a house. Well, I did not see it, and may tire you with repetitions. Nevertheless I'll go on. I am happier in my domicile than I ever was before. Why? Because I have so much anticipation and you <sup>know</sup> that this is all



That man has to make him happy in  
this world of shadows. Born to be immor-  
tal in his being, man must never see  
the end of things - he must look forward  
and, as a wise man said, after he has  
stretched his thoughts and capacities as far  
as he can into futurity - he cannot stretch  
them a little further.

But what has this to do with my farm  
and garden - and apple trees? - Much  
every way. In the first place - There are  
so many old logs trees and brush on the  
premises, ~~and~~ that I can see no end  
in getting rid of them: so much work to  
be done that I can see no end to making  
rails and paying money for them; &  
so much to do in breaking up the sod  
to make my garden that I know not  
when it will be finished. Therefore if  
never-ending pursuits make man happy,  
sure I must be a happy fellow -

But dear Phi! That talk thou, I know  
all these things will soon be at an end  
with me; therefore I set not my heart upon  
them: They fill up my time. They con-  
tribute to the comfort of my growing  
family - and I hope they lead my



mind and heart to Him who is the giver  
all good things. This last pious reflection  
which I feel to the bottom of my soul, leads  
me to reflect on your last most excellent  
letter. O how blessed I am in reading the  
reflections which you make on the uncer-  
tainty of human life! Your dear friends,  
dropping into the grave around you, and  
you thinking of the God who has called  
them, and consoling the afflicted surviv-  
ing friends. In this angelic work of  
mercy, may you find the comfort which  
you so kindly and liberally impart to  
others! May Gods blessing be with  
you my Son - my Son!!

It is now late - my feet are wet &  
cold. I'll write you more another  
time - Good night. 19<sup>th</sup> of Jan 1818.

Jan 20<sup>th</sup>

I have been hard at work to day, as <sup>the</sup> work  
requires; for day after tomorrow I am to go  
away and be absent from home two Sundays  
in visiting some infant parishes to the north  
and east about 15 or 30 miles. How glad I shall  
be when thro' our infant Seminary we can  
obtain some young men of zeal & prudence  
to help us in the work of the ministry.



Your Mother tells me that, I was mistaken in sta-  
ting, as I have done in this letter, that the letter was  
written after we move into our new house. — If she  
be correct in this, what a tale I have to tell you  
— How can I describe to you the toil and the  
care, the turning and twisting, the rising  
early and the late taking of rest, in order  
to eat our Christmas Dinner in our  
own house! — Never was I so much and  
so profusely employed. For, it is not here  
as in N. Eng. — in regard to facility of building.  
Every thing comes by the hardest. Our  
population nearly doubled since I came  
all calling for a house to cover them  
from the inclemency of the winter — boards,  
brick, work, and something to eat. What  
scrambling for the first time in the use  
of Mills, &c. — what putting and holding for  
nails for joiners and masons. What want  
of nails and glass &c. &c. But, I give  
you — well, our house was so far forth  
as to make us comfortable; and on  
Christmas Dinner, there's great merriment, we  
were permitted to eat in it. When with  
Capt. Gardiner (whom I have before mentioned to  
you) we drank our absent friends, we thought  
of your Dear Philander and with the same  
breath prayed for blessings on George and you!