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4-25-1818

Letter to Philander Chase, Jr.

Philander Chase

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Wormington

April 25
1818

My dear Son Philander:

You have a Sister and your Mother lives! — Yesterday the twenty fourth day of April — a day so much already rendered memorable by your own nativity your little Sister was born. — That you will join your Father in offering thro' our blessed Saviour the tribute of a grateful heart to the Author of all Goodness, I have no doubt. Never had such affecting reasons for thanks to Him who pitieth our frailties and crowns them with mercies as at the present. A cloud of distress and anguish is behind us; and all before us seems like the gilded objects thro' a prism surrounded with the mingled rays of joy hope and felicity. Great & Holy God I thank Thee.

For nearly three months past as signified in my former letters to you, your dear Mother has suffered every thing but Death.

Worn out with a fever terminating in an alarming quick Consumption your Mother agitated us with alternate hope and hope and fear, till the hour of her trial arrived.

God however in his infinite goodness supported her. About a fortnight or three weeks before her labours commenced there seemed a divine hand working in her favour. Her cough in some hopeful measure subsided, and her frame gained strength. This was necessary or what I now write could never have taken place. With her babe she would, long before this, have been in one grave.

But tho' God helped her yet his afflicting hand was still upon her. When her labours began they were long and alarming. Her reason for the most part left her and we were in the deepest gloom. After the birth of the child convulsions and a syncope succeeded from ^{which} nothing seemed able to restore her. The Pulse for a long period ceased to beat, the breath scarcely was retained and the soul ~~and the~~ Soul to appearance was leaving its earthly tenement.

The attendants gave her up for lost to this world and began words of condolence to me. This continued from a little after nine in the morning till nearly sundown. - God in his kind providence however had ordered better things than were apprehended for me and for you. Assisted by the unanimous advice of a young Physician whom we had called in for advice ~~during~~ during the unavoidable absence of Dr Lescroart, I continued every exertion for your dear Mother - held her head in my arms and administered every reviving cordial: till the pulse began to beat and life to return. - Her first wishes were those reason and gratitude to God and kindness to all about her. She however

was her debility & such the danger of coming by prema-
-ture exertion what we had gained, that she was not remov-
-ed from her place of distress not put to bed till this morning
about eight o'clock. When this was done she fell into na-
tural slumbers of repose from one of which she awoke
a little time since and asked for for the first time for her
Babe. - It was given her and Mother & Daughter are now
sleeping together. What a contrast this to the distressful
summer this which we've passed! Dear dear Philant.
What thanks do we owe to that infinitely Good
Being who has thus with his undeserved mercies blessed
us! Never let us forget his loving kindness; but ded-
icate our lives to his service.

I am called again to the apostrophe
to your dear Mother

I will write you again on the subject
of your affairs - and that soon

May God ever bless you!

Ever your loving

Sister
Wm. Chas

Washington
Apr 28

1875

Mr. Philander Chase
of the Senior Class
Harvard University
Cambridge Mass.

My Father after
1875 - Washington
D.C. - came on to the
District of Columbia
and to my family
mother / brother

was