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12-24-1816

### Letter to George Chase

Dudley Chase

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Washington Dec: 24<sup>th</sup> 1846

My Dear George

Yesterday I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Col<sup>l</sup>  
Seymour of Hartford, announcing in a postscript,  
that your hon<sup>r</sup> father had been sick of a fever  
but was recovering. I had heard before, by Judge  
Cotton from Vermont, who was here to  
return the votes for President & Vice President,  
that he was distressed as he was this. Hartford.  
that your father was ill, but not dangerously,  
of a fever. The receipt of yours of 21<sup>st</sup> inst, gives  
me the distressing particulars, and has filled  
my heart with sorrow & grief unspeakable.  
I tremble for the fate of poor Cyrus, and deeply  
sympathize for the severe sufferings of all the  
rest of the family. God grant that their sorrow  
may ere this be complete, and the tears of  
affliction dried up. Did it fail to inform me  
of the state of their health as you learn it from  
time to time, and I feel very anxious to hear from  
them as often as possible.

I think I told you in one of my letters that  
I had conversed with the President upon the  
subject of your letter & that I found his opinion  
concurrent with my own as formerly expressed  
to you. However Mr. Mann thinks a way may be  
provided that will answer the purpose, We

Worcester



on various modes, but I am free to observe to  
you that I do not like either of them very well.  
<sup>Hospital</sup>  
As Surgeon will accompany Genl Porter on his  
expedition, the person designated I am well  
acquainted with. I will take a Ward master  
& steward with him whose wages will be, one  
\$20, and the other \$20, per month. He, the  
Surgeon, is my particular friend, and will  
engage whomsoever I please in these capacities.  
He however, promised they shall have nothing  
to do but to attend to the business you propose,  
and shall be supplied with every thing needful  
for the purpose. This must however remain entirely  
inter nos. How do you like it?

I am sorry for Hubbel your friend. The term  
you used to define his punishment is very  
indefinite. Suspended. He has long a period, and  
how does it affect his rights as a student?

Mr. Madison informed me, that every effort was used to  
induce men of competent information to accompany  
Lewis; but the dangers and uncertainties of the expedition  
were so great, that none would venture. That after the  
return of Lewis and the practicability of the plan, proved,  
many were willing to trace the same route and  
make the necessary researches. He further observed that  
Lewis, was a very extraordinary man, and accomplished  
the main object of the expedition, much to the



satisfaction of the President, tho he did not  
pretend to be informed in many points  
that were very desirable.

Do not make dependance on this shine  
of yours, lest you should be disappointed.  
Indeed I consider the chances ten if not  
fifty to one against you. It would  
be folly in the extreme to cherish a hope  
which it would be painful to relinquish.

Excuse this hasty and miserably written  
thing, I have no time to correct or retouch.  
Write me often. Adieu

Yours most affectionately

Dwight Church

I have rec<sup>d</sup> but one letter from home  
since I left Kent. that was dated 8<sup>th</sup> inst.  
All were well & in stan quo



Dec. 24. 1816. (N.W. Expedition) —

Mr. George Chase. Student. Yale. Col.

New-Haven

Connecticut

Dec. 1816