

1-25-1817

Letter to George Chase

Dudley Chase

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Jan. 25. 1817.

{ Free. D. Chase
Sen. U. State.

Mr George Chase

Harvard
Connecticut

Dec. 1816

Washington Jan 7 25th 1817

Dear George,

Under date of Jan 7 20th you write me on a variety of subjects, among other things, asking your comments, relative to various topics suggested in letters I had the pleasure to write you. Your candor in commenting on former observations relative to the late President's death, were very pleasing to my heart; not because I disapproved of your prior remarks, but because you exhibited a self-correcting principle calculated to chasten and even reform that which, on reflection, might be faulty in any hasty production. — I do not recollect the story of abuse rec'd from the late President, to which you allude, but most distinctly recognize the justice of the principle to which you appeal. A just indignation for wrongs we have rec'd, is the guarantee of a disposition, to feel the wrongs of our fellows, or even those more removed from ourselves. To forgive is, however, a truly Christian virtue; and to forget. when we stand on the side that causes our oppressors, those injuries that once heightened our sensibilities, is indeed magnanimity.

Your observations relative to the address of Mr Phillips and the
journal of science delighted me exceedingly, tho' I have
not time this present moment to state the reasons.

Before you receive this you will learn from the newspapers
that Mr Humbell, the great American Historical Painter
is here, and that the Senate have passed resolves to
receive four different paintings of his, descriptive
of those distinguished events that ~~you~~ ^{are} conspicuous
in the history of our Revolution. ~~Some~~ of these
Paintings I have seen with very great pleasure.
Mr Mason an old man, now Senator from
North Carolina, was present at the same time
~~with~~ me. The painting represented the Congress
of the United States at the time of signing the
Declaration of Independence. The figures in
full length were Mr Jefferson and others of the
Committee who reported that memorable
instrument. The lesser figures were the several
members of Congress composing that august
body of Statesmen & Patriots. Mr Mallon, proved
the ability & correctness of the Artist, by designating
the various ^{persons} ~~characters~~ in the group, from his
recollection of the features of their originals. I
never experienced such an effect on my feelings, from
beholding any production of the pencil, as on this
occasion. — I hope you may at some future
day have an opportunity of judging of the merit
of Col^l Humbell in propria persona.
I shall not fail to make report of your remarks

(the next letter I write to your County) on her
not having fulfilled her promise to write
one letter to your two. She will excuse her-
self by saying that the children make
such racket & that she has no time
now to write "But" she will say, "tell
George that I do not the less love him for the
less, appreciate the pleasure his letters give
me" so George you must have the good-
ness to write on, and to excuse your dear
parent tell she actually writes herself
when her even copulag.

am every moment turning my mind
to compute the dearest & most precious period of my
stay here, and indulging in the pleasing an-
ticipation of that delight I shall feel for
seeing you & all your family on my return
home, where I hope once more to enjoy repose.

Have the goodness to remember me in the
most cordial & affectionate manner to all
your Father's family, to excuse this thing written
in the utmost haste, to believe me to be,

Yours forever Dudley Levens

P.S. Write often.