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Letter to Philander Chase

Charles Sigourney

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Sigourney, Charles, "Letter to Philander Chase" (1823). *Philander Chase Letters*. 114.
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To the
Right Rev. A. D. Bishop Chase

Care of Cap. Roland Lee

Corner of Cedar & William Streets

N. York. N. Y.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 4. 111

(C)

Norwich, Conn., Sep. 9, 1823. e)

My dear Sir,

I wrote you briefly just at leaving Hartford, & directed my Letter to you in Albany. I presumed that in your way to the City of New York, you must necessarily pass thro' that place, & there I hoped thro' the kindness of the postmaster, to whom I prefer'd my request, some means may be taken to place the letter in your hands. - But lest you may not stop in Albany, ^{or} ~~the~~ passing thro', may not obtain my letter, I write a few lines, to meet you in New York, which I shall direct to the care of our good friend Capt. Roland Lee. e)

I have received both the Letters which you have written me from the State of Ohio. God knows I grieve, & most sincerely sympathize with you, in the depressed & unhappy Condition of our Church in Ohio. - But such are my obligations, and duties, & engagements, where I am, I cannot meet you, as you wish, in the City of New York, between the 20th & the 30th of this month. The inclination, you may be assured, is not wanting. Come then to us. - Your friends here are apprized of your object. Spend with us a few days - with those who love you, & who probably will retain for you, as long as they live, the attachment they contracted for you while you were their Parish Clergyman. We can all of us together give you better counsel ^{here} than any single individual alone could give you in N. York. Your coming

shall be no expense to you. — I am sorry to learn you are poor. Poverty, it is true, may abridge our means of usefulness, & of doing good. Yet is not in itself an evil to the religious, & philosophical mind. On the contrary it sometime, acts as a foil, to render the virtues of such a character the more resplendent. The packets for England sail from New York four times in every month. — If you go not in the 1st, you can in the 8th October packet; & a week's delay, I should think, would be no detriment to your mission. —

I think you will succeed in your object. At least to a certain extent. You have, thro' the periodical publications, become favourably known to the British ^{publics}. And it is my belief they will take an interest in you personally, & in your object. — The opinions of the age we live in seem to incline more to religious objects, & religious feelings, than of any anterior period, since the age of the Ancient Fathers. A primitive Bishop, — poor & pious — abounding in good works & labours of love, tho' not in the wealth of this world — proceeding from the log-house of Ohio, & calling to the inmates of the episcopal palaces in Great Britain "Men of Israel! help!" will excite attention, will command respect & veneration, & I humbly trust will accomplish successfully his object. —

So then, I may God be with you, & strengthen your hands & your spirit, — unite upon your enterprise, & give you his blessing. You will have the best wishes of your friends here, in Hartford — & I trust their constant, I am sure, their sincere prayers. But before you go, do come to us, & let us

See one another face to face, as of old time, & take "sweet
counsel together". - Arrange it so as if possible to spend
a Sunday with us, & give us the Holy Communion. - Write
to me as soon as you get either of my letters, this to
New York, or the one directed to you in Albany - that we
may know your intentions, & prepare for, & conform to them.
When you arrive here (that is at Hartford) do me the favour
to make your home with me. It will afford me & my good
wife the pleasure of seeing, & hearing, more of you than the
nature of my engagements, otherwise would permit me.
I do not expect to be at home much if any before the 27th.
I go on Tuesday to Providence & — on the business of
the Bank I work for. - I hope you will get the letter
I wrote to you - in Albany. It is rather more particular
in some points than this. - May the Almighty bless us
both, & permit us to meet - here in our earthly domicile, -
hereafter in those "buildings which are not made with
hands, in the heavens" - is the prayer & wish of
your faithful & affectionate

Charles Sigourney

To the Right Rev.
Bishop Chace.

{ Mr. Sigourney is The Treasurer
of the Bishop's Fund in the Diocese
or State of Connecticut. N. America