

2-3-1818

## Letter to Philander Chase Jr

Philander Chase

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### Recommended Citation

Chase, Philander, "Letter to Philander Chase Jr" (1818). *Philander Chase Letters*. 125.  
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My dear very dear Son Philander

I am going to write you a long letter; but when I shall be able to finish it, I know not.

I want to mention many, very many things; but, I fear, I shall, some how or other, forget, as I commonly do, above half.

I have now your dear Brother Dudley in my arms, and a finer, Boy you never saw. He is teasing me to make him a picture, and tell him a story. For, you must know, he can talk quite plain & can say all his letters. I ask him how much he loves his dear Brother Philander? He says "So much holding his hands extended wide and as high as he can. You see how he has made me blot my paper."

Did ever restless, like all his kindred of the human race, have proved tired of the confinement in his father's arms, and gone into the other room to see his Mother? No, God ever bless and protect her! — is but in a weak and very delicate state of health.

The anticipation of seeing you next fall, joined with the very great pleasure of perpetually talking of you, keeps up her spirits — and I hope for the best. To tell you the truth she is in <sup>same situation</sup> precisely the ~~same~~ <sup>same situation</sup> she was in this day, two years ago: Would to God her health were as good now as then! — Pray for her my dear Son, that her hairs and perils may be increased on her in mercy; and that, in God's good time, she may make happy both you and me. This is one of the things I wished you to know: for you should know it — that your prayers may be more fervent



The next thing I wished to mention to you is the books left behind. — I find my library in a very mangled state. — George has many of my books with him, which you must not fail to get. I have no set of Leabury's Sermons, as common as they were, in my house, last year! A Mr Mac Lean of Wintonbury, has a set which he borrowed of me; but never returned. These, or some other. Two or three sets, you must get, if you can. I will subjoin a Catalogue of such volumes, as are wanting in my library and you must make it a primary article in your memoranda of things to fetch with you.

In the next place I wish to speak with you on the subject of our Church, our primitive Zion in this state. What we have done will <sup>the</sup> appear, in a good degree, by the Minutes of Conventions held in Columbus on the fifth of Jan: 1817. Notwithstanding all our difficulties, and they are not a few, I'll assure you, we have more to rejoice in, than could have been expected. Much aid from above we need, to guard us from foes without & keep us in peace within. — Therefore pray for us here also: and let your supplications want neither constancy nor zeal.



And did we forget your loved friends at Brooklyn 110, my son. They and my dear grandmother Par  
sons at Hartford came rushing on our fond  
remembrance like the grateful showers in May  
to give life and sweetness to all we said and did.  
— I wish my pen and ink were better I would say  
more on this delightful theme. But my fingers  
are stiff by reason of hard labour. Indeed you  
know not how many things I have in my  
hands to. — With Heaven's blessings I can de-  
termine not to want. Besides one great mo-  
tive which spurs me on is the great desire I have  
to have things in such advancement and taste  
that when you come I may deserve your praise.  
— Remember then, when you approach my  
plantation that when I came in it, last July,  
it was nearly a desert overgrown with brush &  
briars and encumbered with logs. But I am tired  
as no doubt you are. Good night.

Feb. 3 - 1818.

A storm most furiously. Snow nearly horizontally fills  
the whole face of nature. We have had little or  
no sledding though we rejoice for the prospect afford-  
ed us of getting about and of carrying on to  
the mill & bringing home our boards.  
I have been on my tour to the North mentioned above  
; found all well and prospering; but on my return  
found our bill for a College had been suspended for  
the present till the first day of next session of the  
next Legislature. That we shall eventually succeed  
there can be but little doubt. The Lower House



passed our Act of College Privileges with out a voice  
against it. The Upper House did the same till  
it came to the Third reading when some friend  
moved an amendment much, perhaps too  
much, in our favour which caused a debate giving  
rise to some warmth & length of debate.  
This proved unpleasant and caused an unexpected  
motion for postponement till next term of the  
Legislature to prevail by a small majority.  
Thus God would have it for our trial; let us  
be submissive and not remit our duty.

Last night I sent off by mail the minutes  
or journals of our Convention to the four towns.  
— One I inscribed for you & another for  
Col. Putnam & another for Bp. Griswold  
&c &c. For fear of a misarrangement as is frequently  
the case with such trifles I'll send another  
with this; the expense of postage will not be  
great I'll assure you.

I can't now lay my hands on the catalogue  
of Wanted Books of my Library.  
If I do not send it you in form look about  
you from this day forward till the day of your  
departure for this; and leave not a volume  
behind. Also bring every thing else rare or valuable  
you can come honestly by. Bring a remark of letter paper  
my paper is out; I must take another sheet.



Young George Allen Brother to Wm Allen of Penn  
but is with us. If we mutually agree, he has agreed  
to live with me and work on my farm for one  
year. He is quite indisposed for the present hav-  
ing taken a violent cold and accumulated mud-  
dles on his strength. By the presence of the  
tics and emetics he is notwithstanding the  
severity of his attack now recovering.

Yours dear Good Mother forget her own in-  
firmities and is happy in the effects of her  
skill. What should we all do without her!

The time of Making Sugar soon is at  
hand. I am making great preparations  
to manufacture to make some 300 Weight. Would that you  
were here to partake of our Sweets!

Whoever in our family is the champion at  
grapple respects in this way Dad is not one of that  
number I'll assure you; for his fondness for  
grapple sugar exceeds that of his ancestors.  
He can grapple with a lump as big as his  
head. A bad cold which has been endured  
here has ~~not~~ not passed over this dear  
little fellow; but its ravages on his darling  
pink cheek are now scarcely visible: the  
color to his lovely face and the brillian-  
cy to his enchanting eye have returned:  
There he shews with peculiar fascination  
when with out shew of arms & lifted up  
he tell, how much he loves Bro & Sister.



I've rec'd a copy of the best of letters from Mr.  
Sicourney. & what a worthy man is this! —  
My love and respect for him have increased  
with the distance of space & time which  
separate us. Especially now when he is suffer-  
ing the pangs of a loving & is comparable  
wife does his dear image call forth all  
the tender sympathies of my nature.  
How devoutly do I pray the Good God  
to support and comfort him! — That  
he should have thought of poor me  
as a proper person to take charge of  
his loved children in case of his own  
premature death is what I can scarcely  
believe. Yet this he mentions in this  
letter to me with so much sincere ten-  
derness that I never read it over (which  
I do very often) without tears. You must  
go to Hartford if practicable before  
you set off for Vermont on your way  
to see all my dear friends there —  
hear what they say & treasure it up  
in matter and form in your note book  
— Keep while there; like Ja Bowell a re-  
cord of every conversation: for I love these  
people & treasure more than what  
shall I say? — Would it be hyperbol-  
ic more than the whole



would before? — Were I to say it I should  
have abundant reason in the many un-  
exampled kindnesses they've shewn me.  
But you'll say where are the Putnam  
& Mr Brinley? — Why my son, they're iden-  
tified with the Watford Parish: and that's  
enough.

and now my dear Son Phil —  
Say your prayers — speak the truth —  
Love and serve your friends — do good  
& pray for your enemies — Study  
your book — Exercise your body  
Trust in God & keep yourself cleave  
d from the world — Then mount  
thence you fly to the crown  
The fondest of Fathers

Tell Mr & Mrs Suda that  
I am not in great letter  
yet I dream of them and  
them in the glass of fond remem-  
brance almost constantly —  
— My health is better tho you  
hardly know me. I've lost full  
ten inches of my circumference.



8.  
For I would not, such is my foolish fondness  
have this for ten thousand times its value  
to others. Bear this in mind as you have  
a fond father's shims.

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William Chase  
The Senior Class  
Harvard College  
Cambridge  
Massachusetts

Wm. F. Northrup  
Ct.

I am some how or other lost my volume  
which I preached on the 2<sup>d</sup> Christmas I spoke  
in Hart. — You on The Brooklyn people  
took a copy of this. — You remember it  
was topographical anachronological &c  
&c. &c. — but I don't remember the text  
— Heterogeneous & non-sensical as it may be  
a copy you must remember you must bring down