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Letter to Sophia Chase

Philander Chase

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My dear Wife.

I write this in my dark State Room on board
the Packet ship Orbit on the 29th of Oct 1823 about
40 miles from Holy Head and, say, 100 mi. from Liverpool
The coast of Ireland has been visible to us for the most
part, ever since we passed Cape Clear. The Hills and the
cliffs in varied and beautiful succession have
risen to cheer us by day, and ~~in~~ in Light houses
like stars in the distance & tremulous horizon have
harked in our eyes and deprived the night watch
of half its gloom and terror. How often, as I have
remained on deck at night, long after, all the passengers
had turned in to dose away to them the tedious
moments have I thought on you and the dear
Babes sleeping at your side. Almighty God, Save
some of our fallen race, who hearest the prayers
of the poor and destitute, in mercy visit for
rest and bless my dear wife's Children! Let
them partake of the crumbs which fall from
thy table and it shall suffice! Be more
merciful to us than man has been or we
deserve! —

My dear Wife — the tears which now flow
& scarcely have ceased to flow, down my

care worn cheeks witness the sincerity of my
prayer, as I have supplicated for you for poor
sick Philander and for all my dear Friends
left in my native country.

We have had a long and stormy passage
emblematical of my whole life. But God has
overruled, I hope, in both ^{years} for good. As now, so
at the close of the voyage of life may the prospects
brighten of a blessed Haven of rest.

Last Sunday, a week ago, we were visited with a gale
amounting to almost a tempest. At such a time how
precious the promises in Jesus Christ! — How they
fix and settle the soul, and take away from death
his terrors! — I know not how it is; but the
troubles I have lately met with have seemed to
reconcile me more than at any former period
of my life to the will of God should it please
Him to call me from this to the eternal world.
Yet sure I am that I do not love the
Church of Christ nor my relatives & friends
the less on this account. No, — They are dearer
to me than ever; & my prayers for them

happiness were never so fervent. —

But it seems I am not needed. — My best
endeavours turn to little good purpose. I am
opposed as an evil done where I thought
I was serving most effectually the will
of my Saviour. This is to remind me of my
frailty, my weakness, my nothingness.
I therefore would submit. Thy will not
mine, O God be done! And though this be
by death "Thy will O Heavenly Father, be
done!" amen.

You will be gratified to learn that, as it re-
pects things aboard our passage has been most
agreeable. The Capt. has been kind to us beyond
example and all the passengers have conspired
to make each other as happy as possible.
This is saying much more than can usually
be said.

We have had divine service every Sunday
and grace before and after meat. May God
add his blessing to these means, of his grace

No 1

Mrs. Sophia M. Chase
 care of Leonard & Ripley

New York
 N. Y.

Letter No 1

For publication

Kiss the Children ten thousand times for their
 Lord Father. Make Dudley read "The Lesson" from Holy
 Scripture every day night & morn & to learn the
 collects. Henry dear Boy I hope will learn
 to read and to say his prayers. Don't let Mary
 forget me. My love and duty to dear Mother
 — To Brothers & Sisters say every thing that is ten
 der from me. Don't forget to mention me to
 best folks to the dear Mr. Gorman. P. Chase