

Charles Pettit Mcllvaine Letters

1-26-1865

Letter to S. P. Chase

Charles Pettit Mcllvaine

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Chas P McDevane

65-01-26

Ans. Jan. 31. /55

My dear friend,

Thanks for your trouble in getting & sending the Pap for Mr B.

Is it possible, now that Amendments to the Constitution are under thought & are likely to be sent to the people, to get in a few lines, some three or four or less, making an acknowledgment of God & dependence on Him? I know you feel the great want of the Constitution in that respect. It bears heavily on the Christian mind of the nation. And never was there a better time or a greater call for it, than when we are taking advantage of the opportunity

which only His most dignified hand
has given us, to do a duty which
only His wisdom & wonderful designs
have prepared the people for & to get
red of a curse & sin which we have
deserved to suffer under were there
others we have. No man of any
faith in God can fail to see how
He has brought about a deliverance
which four years ago seemed next
to impossible. But besides the mere
deliverance from slavery, how ^{an auspicious}
is His hand in saving the land,
in spite of all the mistakes & corrup-
tions & party divisions of rulers, legis-
lators & people & men of war, from what
wee seemed so imminent, & all
the intended results of the Rebellion.

We surely should acknowledge God
now & hereafter, not only in the Church
& the individual mind, & the President's
proclamations, but in the corner-stone
law of the land - It should be written
where it would say the most - & now
no point of duty in the present of time -
I do not know whether it is possible -
But I do know that you are the
man, in point of spirit, character,
station, connection with the past of
anti-slavery effort, & influence, to take
it into consideration & touch the springs
of nature, if there be any to be touched
propitiously - Think of it -

I rejoice that Butler is coming out
straight - I see in the papers that Mr
Seward is considered likely to be sent
to St James - Much as I value his name

Hebrens in every respect, I should
think it an unwise step - There is no
leading man among us who would be so
little acceptable to the British public - He
is regarded as particularly hostile to Engl^d & the
story of the Duke of Newcastle about his con-
version at Gen. Morgan's table in Albany is uni-
versally believed - But all that may be pro-
-dent men could be mounted - W. D. is
far from that prudence in speech & pen
which our affairs will require in London -
He is just the opposite of W. Adams in that
respect - The impudence he made in social
circles when he was in Engl^d was not
at all favorable as to measures to be
pursued - But all this inter nos - Why
not W. Linsell? W. Lawrence - Boston
merchant did well - If W. Chase were not
in a more important place, I should say
send him - May the God of all wisdom
& grace be your light & strength in your
present high office - Yours very respectfully
Chas. P. McWhorter