

7-30-1831

Letter to Sophia Chase

Philander Chase

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.kenyon.edu/chase_letters

Recommended Citation

Chase, Philander, "Letter to Sophia Chase" (1831). *Philander Chase Letters*. 901.
https://digital.kenyon.edu/chase_letters/901

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Philander Chase Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact noltj@kenyon.edu.

K. CL. 310730
Cadiz 30 July 1831

My dear Wife:

You will think it strange
that we have got on no further than now
before now. (Saturday morning) yet so it is.
The roads were bad enough at best. but
then you consider how heavy have been the
rains and how long and high the hills were
to receive their wash it will not surprise
you that they were washed literally to pieces.

The second night after leaving home we slept
at Morgan's the last Tavern on the Turreraw
as before you ascend the hills for Cadiz, &
while there it rained and poured all the time
till nine or ten in the morning. so that the
Inundation in the valley, between the High
hills became very great and impeded our
progress not a little.

I should have told you that in crossing the River at
Coshorton the water came up higher than was expected &
the clothes in the Trunks of Sister Rachael & in her
trunk were

hills were sadly wet.

In coming up one of the steep and long hills the staple
in one of the whipple trees came suddenly out. The
Carriage immediately ran back and the horse Sol
went rapidly forward; these two opposite motions jerked
me (who had fast hold of the reins) so directly &
instantly forward that instead of lighting on my
feet when striking the ground I came down on
my knee. At first I thought of nothing but
saving the carriage held now only by one horse
from running down the Hill & over the precipice
and thus with sister Rachel in it from being dashed
to pieces. Good Circumstances that faithful fellows
as all the Teamsters at Cambridge full well do
know, now was our only stay under Providence
who in the hour of extremity never withers. He has
forsaken us. The D. & Saml. & Sarah who had on
account of the steepness of the Hill gone up a piece now
returned to my assistance and securing the wheels behind
with large stones relieved the poor trembling
striving faithful Horse. This done our sister got out
and all seemed for a moment safe. From the
danger of others my mind now returned to the
pain in my own body. The anguish on my
knee was in a few minutes insupportable. I convulsed

my clothes and going into the bushes on the side hill
I discovered the contusion ~~was~~ just above my knee
or rather on the upper half of the knee pan to be
very great. Already the blood began to run in
in the bruised place till it was black & the
swelling the size of a hen's egg. I bound round
some leaves with my handkerchief and resumed
my place on the coach box, the damage
in the Whipple tree having been repaired by
our good Mr. S. Denison we proceeded onward.
The pain in my wound became more & more
intense I stopped at a place about 6 miles
a head and got it bathed with camphorated
spirits. At night it was so ^{& swollen} stiff, that
I could scarcely walk and pained me ~~all~~ till
morning. The Dr. here made a decoction of
tobacco and opium dissolved in vinegar. This
gave me some relief so that we went on
but O the ravages by reason of the flood of the
rain see Free Port. In the Mariner's there
the water had invaded the back of the ^{wood} benches
& the wide spread of the flood, was so great that
we were obliged to go in search of a new path
& cut our way with the Hatchet. And sometimes
the water was so high that we were obliged to pick
our trunks up on logs built up behind the

coast after the manner of a Log Cabin to keep
our Clothes from being wet again.

When we arrived here we found that such
had been the effects of the rain between Steu-
benville and this place (Cody) that the mail had
be forced to be carried on horse back; and that conse-
quently there was no hope of my getting to Steu-
benville so as to hold Service there tomorrow.
"I'll go to Crook Creek & officiate in St. James
Church and send Mr. Morse word by the
post to meet me there." To aid this plan Sam-
uel who by this time is "quite well" (as you know
he shakes it) volunteered to go ahead on horse back
and give the Wardens notice that they might
spread the news of this arrangement as far
as possible. This morning I heard him with
the servant mounting his horse under my
window and then receiving his last direction
to turn here to the right & there to the left gallop
off in good speed.

We shall stay till we shall have breakfasted
& then be off after Samuel. My knee is a little
better.

Yours faithfully P. Chase