

3-15-1833

Letter to Rev. W. Ward

Philander Chase

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To the Lordship of
Söder and Mann?

Gilead, Branch County
Michigan Territory Mar 15. 1838

My very dear Lord and Best of Friends

I have
not as you suppose overlooked the papers of Mr
Wilkes and do not need to be awakened from my
supposed "torpor" as that good gentleman ~~supposed~~
Mr. - Guess at the time when I was turned from
my home and was wandering I knew not whether
to find a place to lay my aching head & broken heart
I remembered my duty and complied with Mr
Wilkes wishes in delivering up all my papers
to his appointed agent John H. Reed Esq of La
crosse. Read the inclosed paper in the handwriting
my beloved wife signed by the initials of her name
and be assured of this. -

Your Lordship speaks in the close of a short but
to me very dear Letter that your Daughter had
written about six weeks before his letter to me
I know it - I know it. and my eyes fill with
tears when I recall her goodness to my mind.
Why then you will ask why she will say have
I not answered it?? - Simply because I knew
not how to do so without giving her more pain
than pleasure. And to ~~tell~~ ^{show} the truth is the jus-
tice reason why I have been silent to the ten-
thousand inquiries from the rest of my beloved
Friends in dear dear old England. I would not
find it in my heart to pain them by letting
them know how my own country had treated
me. I had rather they would think me criminally
neglectful of my duty to them than tell ~~that~~
the whole story of my sufferings. They supposed
as your Lordship further mentions that I was to
have a kind of trial at the Convention &
"were waiting with great anxiety the result of it!"
Alas how mistaken such expectations! There are
some things that are so badly situated as to re-
quire for the peace of God's Church here below
to be postponed to the last and final audit
in Heaven. before they be disclosed

To explain this remark I will state a few things

shin for the honour of the Church never can be made
public other than ^{this} the private channel of her
best friends.

Your Lordship knows the cause from whence my
troubles arose while in England. Bishop Hobart had
determined that I never should have a Theological
Seminary of the P. E. Church in Ohio: and to de-
feat me in this he pledged himself all his
splendid talents. To this end ^{also} he went to England,
^{whether I was going for that intent}
~~and on the contrary that according to~~
^{and according to his expectations}
~~he would write many unflattering things~~ his threats
given to me in America, dared to appear there
also, he published hand bills bidding the Heads
and friends of the Church of England to dis-
= it my plans and defeat my designs. The
chief ground of his argument was: my plan
was visionary for the American Episcopal
Church had already established a Genl Theo Sem-
= inary in N. York and would countenance
no other. He therefore would rather they would
give ^{to} him as a representative of the N. York
Seminary and not to me who came from
the insignificant diocese of Ohio.

His objections, however, were overruled by the good
sense and kind feelings of England. I came home
crowned with success; while his subscription even
then taken in conjunction with that for Washington
College in Connecticut was but partially
filled.

It is not to be supposed that a man of Bishop
Hobart's temperament would submit ~~stand~~
in silence to a defeat of this nature from the
influence of one so insignificant as myself
^{in my opinion} with those with whom till this period it
was his boast to consider himself as
preeminently popular. He created a secret
prejudice against me and the Theological Semi-
nary which I was founding of deep and lasting char-
acter. As Hannibal with his son so he with his

spiritual children; there seemed a kind of oath im-
 posed on their minds which was to last when their
 self should have been mingled with the dust; that
 whatever was Theological in ^{the Institution; in} the words whatever pro-
 tended the right of educating young men for the
 ministry in Kempton College should be the subject of
 never ending enmity and opposition. This sentiment
 became hereditary with Bishop Hobart & all
 who would be supposed attached to that policy & willing
 to be guided by its influence must drink deep of this
 stream ~~and were very~~ of enmity to me.

The influence of Bishop Hobart in propagating this
 feeling extended further than his own Diocese and
 immediate descendants: it reached the bosom of
 a majority of the other Bishops of our Church in
 the U. States: and to convince your Lordship of this
 fact and to show you that I am not erroneous
 in its origin I shall relate here the particulars of a scene
 in the great drama of our Church. Tarry then that
 you have before you a view of the Bishops of the
 P.E. Church in session in the Vestry room of St. Peter's
 Church Philadelphia Decr 1826

| | | |
|------------------|------------|---------------|
| Present Bishops: | White. | Philadelphia |
| | Hobart | N. York |
| | Kent | Massachusetts |
| | Cross | Ohio |
| | Cham | N. Carolina |
| | Ravencroft | |

| | | |
|--------|----------|-----------------|
| Absent | Grinnard | Eastern Diocese |
| | Moore | Virginia |
| | Knox | South Carolina |
| | Brownell | Connecticut |

Bishop Ravencroft of North Carolina moved
 that a vote of approbation should pass the House
 in relation to the Theological Seminary of the Diocese
 of Ohio commonly known by the name of Regi-
syon College and to show that such a vote would be
 no more than just in itself and in strict accordance
 with the principles of the Church as set forth in her disci-
 pline and Order, Bp. R. read sundry documents all
 of which showed clearly how the Founder in all his proc-

cedings had addressed to the primitive Constitution of
God's Church in her Episcopal Discipline and in
resolving all questions in their ultimate appeal
to ~~the~~ an unlimited Synodical Character to
the House of Bishops both collectively & separately.

The remarks of the good Bishop however, were not
sufficient to overcome the influence of a deeply rooted pre-
judice but too visible in the countenance of Bishop
Hobart ^{of such as} implicitly followed his policy.

Bishop Ravenscroft had hardly finished the exordium
of his speech before Bishops Hobart & Kent retired to
a corner of the Room; where they remained in
private converse till Bishop R. had ceased: then
Bishop Kent came to me and spoke these words.

"I never have had any thing to do with
your Seminary; and never intend to have
any thing to do with it." !!!

Whether the other Bishops present heard these
remarks I am not able to say; but the subject
was dropped as if by mutual consent: The Chair-
man Bishop White getting up from his seat
and walking about the room as if in ~~XXXX~~
divinity, mental vacancy

As to my own conduct on this trying occasion
it was that of perfect silence the natural com-
mitant of deep and agonizing supplications
of heart to God for grace to bear this that I
deemed the dearest and most deadly wound
my feelings had ever received.

I retired to my diocese and by the sweat of brow
in the path of duty and tears of penitence for
sins which the Lord God had seen fit to
visit ~~by~~ the infliction of such ~~XXXX~~ ^{wound}
as these thro' the hands of my Episcopal brethren,
I endeavoured to blot out from my mind
and memory the ~~XXXX~~ ^{forgiving the past} and
mark the ~~XXXX~~ ^{to hasten hope for better things in} future

2. sheet

my Episcopal Brethren I endeavoured to forgive the past and hope for better things in future. For the space of more than four years I continued to labour and require the exertions of my family to build up the Institution of which God had made me the founder hoping that, as there were actually existing theological means of instructing candidates for the ministry besides those in New York and some of these had assumed the name and title of Theological Seminaries of the P. Episcopal Church as that (eg) at Alexandria in Virginia, which the Church had virtually countenanced by admitting men who were educated in them to Holy Orders, the enmity to the Theological Seminary in this might wear away from the minds of my Brother Bishops and in its stead might be substituted a willingness not only to approve of it but to take its visitatorial power into their own hands as the words of the charter allow. But God had reserved for me still greater troubles and causes for still deeper afflictions. My own Clergy and the Diocese which I had been the unworthy means of creating and building up, turned their heel against me in this thing. I had procured of the Legislature of Ohio the power of conferring degrees in common learning to be extended to the President (the Bishop ex-officio) and the Professors. I had appointed the teachers and given them ^{their ample salaries} these were young men (Alas I fear too young in the fear of God as well as in years) who seeing the unwillingness of the Bishops to acknowledge the Theological character, and to take the visitatorial charge of the Seminary or guided by motives of ambition in their own selves or of envy to me for ^{the} reputation of being its sole founder determined at once to deprive the Institution of its Theological character and to rise on the ruins of its founder. To this end they conducted all things in secret and conspiring against me held their private meetings among the Teachers and addressed the scholars in artful speeches till some great evil was fancied to exist of which I knew nothing. The evil thus created at home spread itself abroad throughout the Diocese and to persons of a certain party in the Church in the United States. I was shocked at insinuations from out of the Diocese predicated on pretended facts of which there was no shadow of existence and of which I never dreamed all of which had their origin in this conspiracy.

Things thus succeeded but too well. The members of our Convention are chosen by a majority of votes in our parishes and when every thing was put in active operation by a desinizing party on a subject of which the other side of the party concerned knows nothing it is no difficult matter to conjecture the event. Men suited to their purpose were elected while others ignorant of their designs threw no obstacle in their way of conducting the affairs of the Convention all by Committees of their own selection - Myself the official President being providentially landed in great Spain and thus unable to attend and the Senior Presbyter being a mere Tool the party did as they pleased: under the outward appearance of much Religion and seeking directions by prayer they produced an apparent union which for a time deceived even me when it was the object of that union to ruin. On reflecting back upon the consummate art by which things were managed to make things appear abroad for what they were not in reality all under the cloak of Religion and Piety my mind is at times astounded and needs the support of a firm and implicit faith in Him who for wise purposes unknown to us suffereth the wicked to triumph over the innocent and hypocrisy to bear away the reward of sincere piety.

The two great moving causes of the evils above stated were, one in the college William Sparrow and the other a resident of the City of Cincinnati named B. P. Adelotta both of whom seem to be in their sentiments what is known in your Lordships country by the name of the "King Lambeth Article Gentlemen" so conspicuous in the time of the first Charles who like Cromwell could pray with Fairfax with their tongues while their hearts were engaged in measures of murder and the greatest enmity to their superiors. The popular principle on which the Conspirators and those who were deceived with their views of things, was that the Theological Seminary was "merged" in the very being of the common College: that the Bishop should not be considered as a Bishop of the P. E. Church while he acted as President. that he should bring with him no part of his Episcopal authority when governing the Institution. -

That his Presbyters and Deacons if there were any such in the College as teachers should be considered as his equals that no obedience should be ~~recognized~~ of them to their Bishop while they were attached to the College except such as the Trustees should by their laws from time to time require and that even the constitutional power given him in these express words by the grant of the Legislature (viz) that "The Bishop should have the immediate charge and superintendence of the Seminary" could be taken from him by the vote of the Majority of the Trustees and given to another to a faculty of their own creating or to an individual whom they might appoint.

and this principle and this mode of reasoning from it as its legitimate consequence they ~~proposed~~ to be adopted (it seems by committees artfully selected) in convention so as to make the same an act of the whole Diocese for whom I had laboured and of the Trustees whom under Providence I had created. In the sentiment therefore which the evidence before me impressed on my mind there could be no mistake. The truth shocking as it was in its nature and consequences was written as with a sunbeam before me. The Institution was no longer the same. It was changed in its character and design and rather than be considered a still wedded to a Master thus false to my honour and faithful to my trust an institution which to found to love & to cherish I had sacrificed so much but which had betrayed all into the hands of Non-Episcopacy and which would and will if managed on these principles destroy the character of our Primitive Church and level all with Congregational parity. - I resigned committing my cause into the hands of him who hath said "vengeance is mine I will repay" I quit the scene of my arduous labour and with the remnant of my much impaired means like Abraham I went out from among my kindred into the wide world; into a land which I knew not. I set my face towards our wilds still further to the west not knowing whether I went preaching every Sunday and performing divine service wherever I found persons sufficiently intelligent to say

"Amend to my giving of thanks" according to the primitive
liturgy of our Church. I travelled up the Lake Erie and across
the country to this beautiful land of Gilead in the
regions of St Joseph river, which I so name (being the first
settlement in it) because of the Calms which God caused it to
afford to my wounded bosom. For with the little means
which I had, the cheapness of the land at the government price
\$1.25. per acre enabled me to spread my title over a surface
sufficient by the labour of myself and family to afford a competency
and to have something wherewithal to glorify God in the building
up of his Church. Eighty Acres of the estate thus providentially
acquired I dedicate as a Glebe for the maintenance of a Chappell
in the parish of Gilead, and for the erection of a Church I am
now making all possible preparations. Never was there
a finer soil nor can the world produce more elegant scenery
or land better adapted for immediate fruition. No clearing
is required where amidst the most majestic trees there a space
left of many acres each (from 10 to 100) where nothing is wanting
to the production of a luxuriant crop but to fence and plough
the field. I write at different times; therefore your
Lordship will please to pardon anachronisms. It is now early
in the month of July, ~~1803~~ 1803. and though I began this
letter many months ago yet I have not said one tenth part
of what I would wish to say to your Lordship. The truth
is - I love dear old England because she has once loved me. (O that
I could say that she still loves me!) and my affection pent
up as it had been ^{in my bosom} by adversity for so long time when it finds vent
as it now the case in answer to your Lordships letter and that of dear
Lord Kenyon would pour forth most copiously. In answer
then let me lay aside the trammels of ordinary forms and speak
to your Lordship and dear Mary Caroline as I present graciously
by listening to my disjointed love and pardoning my epistolary
eccentricities. I have begun to tell you of the place where
I now live. It is meet and right that your Lordship and the
rest of my best friends in England should know more of it
and the habits of life which I have adopted. The country
round about me having even begun to be settled. about
^{or 4} three years ago offers everywhere a wide field of ministerial duty

X

K. C. L. 330315 [3]

and altho the number of Christians in proportion to other
denominations is very small yet I endeavour to labour as the
apostles did faithfully and free by asking nothing but the souls of
men to be saved in Christ as my reward. The extent of my
circuit is only about 80 miles visiting ~~the~~ (vide 3 sheet)

K. 24. 330315 [4]

visiting the extremities every quarter of a year and the
places within 10. and 15. miles of me, much oftener. I have as
yet kept the festivals of Christmas, Easter & Whitsuntide in
my own parish at home in Gilead and to my own family &
a few faithful & pious neighbors have always admi-
-tered the Holy Eucharist. This I do in a room of my own
house made up for that purpose at the time being.
As I said above nothing do we long for more than a church
and small as are our means yet my children and dear Wife
join me in full determinations to erect one as soon as possible
to this end (more providentially, having discovered a mill seat with the
command of a copious water power not more than 1/2 mile from
our dwelling and secured the title to the land in which it is situated
the government price 1. dollar & a quarter per acre we are now en-
gaged in erecting a saw mill to prepare the requisite lumber. So
that in the course of the coming autumn & spring we hope to have
it in our power to say that in the collection of materials, our Church
is begun. I should desire you & to leave your dear spirit to suppose
that my plans in coming into the Wilderness were to terminate
with the erection of one Church and the establishment of one parish.
At the call of duty my mind goes still farther. Having ample soil
and of the best quality I see no impediment to the establishment of
a Self Supporting School in which to train the min-
isters of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ to labor in the fields
now and ever as the Country settles so rapidly to the west
"White man's harvest!" - Check me not here, I beseech you and stop
on the ground of my former failure. Taught by past experience I
hope to be more wise for the future. Never will I commit in to the
hands of others the sword by which my own throat may be
cut. That which I thrust ^{into} the lap of others I shall re-
tain in my own hands; and the hands of faithful men
will I commit it. The Father shall guide the Children
shall say. But the full development of this plan I reserve
for a future letter.

Among the Teachers of the School at Gamber there
was a young man (a namesake of mine) distinctly related
to me) of uncommon talents and insensibility. I had placed
him at the head of the Greenman school where he ac-
quitted himself with much credit and great usefulness.
This young man detected the conspiracy and kept aloof from
it. He was absent from Gamber at the period of the last
season of teaching; as if God had so ordained that I should
be left without ^{one} ~~my~~ ^{my} support when most in need.
This young man (Council Chase by name author of the
"Remarks &c." which I sent you) will be admitted to Holy
Orders this fall & immediately will come from the

Eastern diocese where he has been completing his Theo-
logical studies to this place. From his letters I am assured
of his willingness to enter into my plans & be my faithful
Friend and Supporter.

If you ask why I do not ordain him? I answer it is
my wish (altho' there is nothing in our Canons to
forbid it) to avoid every thing that ^{may} be construed into the
semblance of ~~interference~~ ^{making a division in the Church}. Not even one spiritual
act have I performed since I came to this place ~~as~~
~~my representative~~. When the time shall have arrived
~~in which~~ it may be said that God hath lifted up my
= head by his blessing on my endeavours to benefit
his Primitive Church here in the wilderness and
showered to the world the guilt of my murderers. Then
I trust a true statement of facts laid before
the Convention of our Church, ~~which~~ will make
both my enemies to mourn & my friends to rejoice.
Till then, here I am; "patient in tribulation,
joyful thro' hope, rooted in charity." - Yes, my
Lord, I add "charity" even in relation to the bishops
conduct towards me in the matter of the Theo-Seminary.
For surely do I believe they did not know to what extent
their treatment of me would reach. May God for Christ's sake forgive them!
Your lordship mentions something which seemed to sug-
=gest I would attend the Genl. Convention of our Church in New
York last year (1832). Had all the reasons been made known
to ~~you~~ ^{me} ~~that~~ the propriety of my neglecting to attend that
assembly would I trust have been evident. I had no seat
in their House of Bishops the Convention having given ~~no~~
~~no~~ ^{seat} to those Bishops only who have Dioceses: and as for me
for a seat on the ground that I had ~~no~~ ^{power} to resign as some
of my friends vainly hoped would be the case it was more foreign
to my thoughts. I had the right & the power to resign
& that right and power could be lawfully exercised whenever
my diocese should place me in a condition wherein to stay
would violate the dictates of my conscience.

men of English Parks, without the opportunity of shooting
a Buck or a fat Doe with her fawns. This is no romance
may it please your Lordship, but the facts witnessed by all
who visit us.

One thing we can not but feel as a great inconvenience
i.e. the want of comfortable buildings that which sheltered us
last winter was hastily erected and had it not been for the
comfort of two excellent Stoves which I procured to be
brought from Detroit we should have perished.
But the erection of our Mill we trust will abate all these
inconveniences.

I wish your Lordship could see how busy we are, and ingeni-
ous in surmounting all difficulties & making all our labour
turn out to the best account, while the minds of our children
are by no means neglected: e.g. This day at the
very time I am writing these words I will give
your Lordship an account of each and every of my family.
My eldest son Dudley is this moment engaged in copy-
ing some writing upon my study at my left hand
My next son Henry is assisting my hired boy James
to plough or break up the stubborn turf of the
Prairie in the field with five yoke (or 10) oxen.
My two youngest, dear little Mary and Philanda
the latter of whom was born while I was in dear
old England are gone on an errand riding on Pa-
trick's two best horses to carry some green peas
which they had gathered with their own hands
as a present by their kind Mother to one
of our Neighbours who did not arrive in the
place to put in seasonably a crop for this
year of this delicious vegetable. Just before Mary
mounted her horse to ride away with her present
to old Mrs Prothe (if name of our neighbour) I observed she
ran into the garden and gathered one of the finest
nose galls I had ever seen, with which I have learn-
ed, to make her visit acceptable to Eliza Prothe the
good old ladies daughter. My proud Niece Mrs Russell &
her dear daughter Sarah are ^{engaged in} the culinary duties
and our loved wife is engaged busily at her needle.
My chief Carpenter is making a machine essential

K. 330315 [6]

| Kind of grain | No. of acres | Bushels per acre | Market price per bushel | Amount |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Wheat | 40 | 20 | 12 1/2 cents | 500.00 |
| Oats | 20 | 30 | 25 | 150.00 |
| Ind: Corn | 15 | 25 | 25 | 93.75 |
| Barley | 4 | 30 | 25 | 30.00 |
| Hay | 10 | 5 | 2.00 | 100.00 |
| Potatoes | 2 | 100 | 25 | 50.00 |
| | | | | <u>923.75</u> |

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Copy of a letter
from Bp Chase

Bp Chase
March 15th 1833

Copy of a letter
to the Bishop of
Massachusetts
of
March 15th 1833

Copy of a letter
to Bishop of
Massachusetts
1833 - 4:25