

4-6-1835

Letter to Aaron Kinney

Philander Chase

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To Mr. Aaron Kinney, &

Filed M. D.
April 6. 1835.

Very dear Sir:

That I have not answered your very kind second letter before this you must attribute to every thing but want of affection to you or your dear family. Most thankful am I to Him who is the author of all goodness for the blessings which you and ^{your} sons and your daughters enjoy at his merciful hands. Methinks I can see you all as assembled around your firesides or as you sit in the house of God expressing your grateful sense of divine favour and imploring heavenly grace to improve them to the glory of God and the good of his Church. Oh that by these means you might thro' the atoning blood of the Lamb be prepared to meet at last a family in Heaven, not one lost, not one, out of your great number, missing!

A week ago today I received an appointment to the Episcopate of Illinois which, being offered me by the unanimous vote of the Convention of that Diocese and in no way, directly or indirectly, sought for by myself, I can not but regard as the clear expression of the divine will, and as such demanding my acceptance. I should feel no deception of spirits freely acknowledged the effect of a want of faith, I was as young as when I came into Ohio. But God can strengthen my aged arm and empower my enfeebled body to do his will. - Oh that He would also give efficacy to my voice, when preaching his word for the conversion of sinners to holiness; and all his spiritualunction to the labour of my trembling hands!

In the communications which I have recd. from Illinois it is expressly stated "no salary must be expected by me for the support of myself and family. In this case you will ask what am I to do? - I am too old to work on a farm as I did in Ohio, for the support of my little ones; or to go abroad for means to support my helpers in the

gospel work. - The only way I can think of is to constitute a
School & by superintending it and engaging faithful & pious teach-
ers to try to do good to the souls of my pupils while for their
tuition I receive something to live on. And yet even this
seems to be a sorry expedient when I look on the enfeebled frame
of my dear Wife already worn out with such work at Wor-
thington and Gambier. And then the danger of my
under Teachers making such high demands for the ser-
vices they render me so that if ^{not} granted they would enter
into a conspiracy to ruin me again by deceiving the plo-
=ple and exciting their passions against imaginary
failings. - One thing is in my favour I am put on
my guard by the melancholy scenes at Gambier 1831,
and another is that the only person who kept himself
untainted by the poison then poured out against me is
now with me, and ready to go with me to the work in Il-
=linois. This is the Rev. Samuel Chase now married
to our dear Sarah the daughter of my dear niece Mrs
Rusfull. - This worthy gentleman was at the head of
the Gram-School while in Gambier, and is now fit
to fill the chair of a Professor. He, I say, will go with
me and commence the School at Peoria, which ~~was~~
intended to carry on had we remained in Gilead.
Another and the last thing I shall mention as en-
couraging me to commence anew in Illinois is
that all the Clergy there heartily detesting the con-
=duct of the Conspiracy at Gambier will join
with me against any such measure should it break
out among the pampered Teachers of any school
I may set on foot in my new Diocese. - Under these
encouraging circumstances putting my trust in God I
shall go on in the good work -

Should it be the will of God that no support can be de-
rived from this source of school keeping I can but sub-
mit to the will of God and seal my faith in him
with my death. This, it seems to me, I should be sup-
ported in doing were myself alone concerned; but
when I look on my suffering wife and the chil-
dren whom God hath given us, I tremble in
view of the weakness which might attend me.
The little substance we have here I have husbanded
with great care and by the blessing of God on the la-

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born of myself and boys we had good reason to hope that with
the fruits of the earth and the avails of our sawmill we could
not only get a living but be enabled to give some learning
to my sons as we crept along in the down hill of life.
But the work now imposed on us and the prospects now
opened to our view changes all things of this sort into a
mere dream. — Our cattle must be sold our saw mill
left to untended overhauled and our fields left uncultivated.
As for a sale of the Farm, there is so
much wild land about us at government price it
will bring in money, I fear, but a moiety of what
we have laid out on it in improvement & buildings.
— Pardon me my friend for talking thus to ^{one} who
is, and must be, ever so distant from us. My
excuse is I was speaking to ^{friend} ~~some~~ who has lent
a listening ear to my woes and who now will not
misuse nor abuse the confidence I have for the
ease of my aching heart, repose in his faithful
word.

After all, it will give you pleasure to
learn that amidst all the clouds of dark
ness which hang over my head I see the
hand of mercy - goodness - and love. — The
bright beams of ~~the~~ ^{the} setting sun of my life gilds
the bottom of the clouds so that I have hope.
— hope of a blessed day of life eternal, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

If you will write to me soon I think in the
course of mail I may receive your letter before
I set off with Mr. S. Chase for Illinois. Pray do so
with best love to Mr. Kinney and all your
family as if named I am,

Very Dear Friend

Your faithful Friend
& Servant in the Lord

William Chase

Yr. Obedt. Servt. J. M. Gilman M.D.
April 6—

Mr. Aaron Kimrey
Portsmouth
Ohio

