

1-29-1836

## Letters to Rachel & Joseph Denison

Dudley Chase II

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Hartford January 29/1836

K. Ch. 360129a

My dear Aunt,

Your kind letter gave me as much pleasure as the favour was unexpected, I did not know but that you had forgotten the thoughtless boy you saw at Gambier: but this proves my mistake and your affection. It would give me the greatest pleasure to accept of your kind invitation, and I hope I shall be able to do so for certainly there is nothing I have looked forward to in coming to N. E. with greater pleasure than the hope of meeting with you, whose affection I have known and becoming acquainted with those other dear Relations, of whom I have heard so much.

The permission which my Father gave me just before he sailed for England to come here and prepare for college was quite unexpected to me. Though I had always hoped at some future day to visit the land of my birth. I little expected it then as the word seemed to be inward to the West the far West. But I gladly availed myself of the opportunity of getting an education for I thought it was better late than never. How I shall succeed remains to be proved. I find in Hartford many kind friends of my Father for whose kindness to me for his sake I have reason to be very grateful, and I have found no reason to regret leaving home except in the



last distressing news which I had from them that  
their dwelling was destroyed by fire. And though I  
know my Mother's fortitude, and though she says  
they saved their most valuable things: and had  
another shelter to retreat to and plenty of provision  
left. Still I could not but feel anxious on their  
account, and wish that I was with them where I  
might be of some assistance instead of being here  
a burden. But it was the will of Providence who  
mercifully spared their lives and if they are cheerful  
and resigned why should I not be so too.

I have a thousand things to say my dear Aunt  
which I can but too poorly express on paper  
and a thousand questions to ask which I must  
defer till the time (and I hope that is not far distant  
when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you.

If I should remain with you while preparing  
for College would I not find too great  
a temptation to neglect my books? Perhaps.  
though, the desire to merit the approbation  
of my friends would have the opposite effect,  
and the example and encouragement of Cousin  
Judley would incite me to diligence: one thing  
I know that nothing could be more agreeable to my  
feelings. And if my friends permit, upon whose will  
I am entirely dependant I shall certainly accept of  
your kind invitation. But if it cannot be I shall  
still remain as ever your affectionate Nephew Judley.



Dear Sir,

In answer to your kind inquiry concerning my preparation for College I am ashamed to <sup>say</sup> confess that I know so little. Ever since my Father left Gambier I have devoted almost all my time to farming, and have paid little attention to the cultivation of my mind: so that it will probably take me till next fall when I expected to enter here. If it is agreeable to those who placed me here I should greatly prefer spending the intervening time at your house, for in addition to the pleasure of your society I think I should have better instruction. For here there being no grammar school there is no regular teacher to the introductory class as it is called but each member recites to whoever he pleases in the higher classes. and it is not the most pleasant thing to have the honour of being a sub-fresh in such an institution as this. It would be much more in accordance with my own feelings to have the company of your son and the society of your family. The next time I hear from home I shall be able to determine whether to accept your very kind offer. If this cannot be I shall be obliged and apologetic.

Yours truly  
Nephew Dudley Chase



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