8-20-1836

Letter to Samuel Chase

Philander Chase

Peoria Augt 20th 1836

Dear Samuel.

Both Mrs Chase and myself are very much distressed by not hearing from you at last this the last evening's mail:- What can be the matter? Nothing can acct: for your silence but sickness. "He will come and see us or write to us" said we to ourselves as we rode thro' the lone woods & over the extended uninhabited Prairies 20 miles yesterday in order to reach this Place before dark. Many whom we saw while coming into Town, we fancied to be you: but our disappointment was completed only at the P.O. just after the Springfield Mail was opened when it was told us no letters from your Nephew! We turned with a sorrowful heart towards Mr Garrett's (he lives in a small house at the upper end of the town) but found him yet suffering under the effects of an inflamatory Rheumatism: and under such circumstances his house too small to accommodate us. Judge Bigelow had left compliments in inviting us to his house — Judge Hunt went along to introduce us. We spent the night agreeably: and this morning went forth in quest

of stoves bedsteads & other furniture for our winter's dwellings. And where you'll ask is this? Answer – In the South ~~[illegible]~~ half of section 36 – Township 10 – Range 6 east of the Principal meridian, Peoria County Illinois. Here we pitch our tent for the winter till the great matter of obtaining the grant from Congress of pre-emption lands suitable for the Seminary at the minimum price. If we succeed in this project all will be as it should be. If not we have but to seek some other place. While this is determining our dear family must have at least a way-faring residence for the winter. To accomplish this therefore we exert all our efforts. Henry (God bless him for his manly conduct) has gone to Joliet for Mrs Rupel and Mary Philander & Jane and is expected to return next week on Thursday or Friday. In the mean time, having purchased at my own risk a claim and tax title to some land as above on which is an unfinished Cabin, I am endeavouring to put things in order for their reception. This I find a task indeed: & Could I have had your company and advice methinks my burden would be lighter. But this blessing is denied me and under circumstances of painful anxiety as to your health and that of your dear little daughter. Even Mrs Chase your aunt's health is by no means so good as I wish it. For a few days past

she has suffered thro weakness and want of many comforts in the crowded Cabins in which (the best that could be had) she has found shelter. As to myself you know I was born to suffer in this way and am used to it.— Sleep often, however, flies from me and the long night not unfrequently a= mong clouds of mosquitoes passes heavily away — Tomorrow I am to preach for the third time here in Peoria since I came. All seem to be pleas= ed at the thoughts of constant services and I have reason to hope the Church will be benefited by our exertions.

But your health — your health is the great thing which occupies the minds of Mrs C and myself.— Why does not Sarah write us if you are too ill to do so? — Why keep us in this suspense — Tell her to do so — and that immediately. If there should be danger, I will fly to you on the winds wings but remember what is to be done here: our family having no where to go must suffer if the un= finished — the now unroofed Cabin be not put in order. Not a house not a single room can be spared for us in Peoria or vicinity. I do not complain at this. My Saviour had not where to lay his head. P. Chan

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Rev. Samuel Chase
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