

Philander Chase Letters

9-15-1837

Letter to Rachel Denison

Philander Chase

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K. Ch. 370915

Dear Sister Hannah,

I was better pleased with
your last letter than with any that I remember to have
received. - Pray it I see you are refreshing your heart - & that
your faith in the only source of consolation to the
aged remains firm. Go on, dear sister, and cherish
what the Good God has begun in you. It is a plant
which if watered by the dews of God's grace & guarded
by the hand of vigilance will bloom even amid
the cold blasts of leafless old age.

What you say of dear Sister Alice is truly
characteristic of her. Faith in the Lord Jesus and
candour and strength in her expressions of it are
conspicuous in all she does or says. - How of-
ten in my prayers have I thought of this
dear sister! - and how I long to see her in her
moments of bodily distress! - but I fear we are
to meet no more till we unite our loves in Hea-
-ven. I have spent a fortune in going to see my
friends in Vermont. In my old age I have not
another to dispose of in this way. Even the little,
which was sent my wife from her female friends
in Eng^d must go to pay back into the Treasury
of the Missionary Society that I foolishly drew
from them to support me in my travels in
this diocese. I thought it was freely given; but

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I find it otherwise: so I have returned it to them.
Their sending my draft back to me does not make me
swerve from ^{my} purpose: and I have told them so, in my
ans^r to the Committee: as you may see.
But I did not mean to mar the fair face of my letter to
you dear Sister by this dirty subject. I feel to much
in your spirit to dwell long on pecuniary subjects.

I shall soon have it in my power to send you a copy
of my "Pastoral letter" to the flock committed to my
charge. I hope you may approve of it as an
instrument of doing good in my day and generation.
It is principally aimed against the sins of vanity
and coveting at large, worldly mindedness & covetous
ness. I hope to ^{have} a proof of the last form in a day or two.
You must tell me candidly what you think of it.

By your corrections I hope to do better next time.

So you see I am laying out something ahead. —

If this be, as you say, like our hon^d & loved Father I
am proud of it. If pride in any thing be allowable
it is innocent in imitating the excellencies of our
virtuous ancestors.

Your kindness in detailing to me the condition of your
domestic relations prompts me to try to imitate your
example & say something, however poorly, of my own
dear family. My Wife, God bless her, is all that I

would pray for in the most beloved Companion. —

She is at present in pretty good health and with me has just been to ^{the} sick person on horse back about 2 miles off —

Next is Mrs Knappell. The best of human beings in her heart & intentions; but, like her mother, very Talkative. Even this has become pleasing to us because it tells us, dear, dear, Lucia is alive and near us.

Then comes Sarah now the mother of two lovely babes: & what other? — A worthy & dignified wife and Mother truly; none inferior to her in "dear old England!" But how precious need I say to you that her husband has just now left us to attend dear Bruce his Mother, & his sister Mary to Mr. Hemps & that the news has just arrived that the Capt was taken sick in Beonia with the typhus fever. Tomorrow my wife and myself are to go and see them. —

You will probably have read of the death of that interesting young man the Dudley Chase of Bressville N.H.?

He expired in this our humble dwelling about a fortnight since, in the faith of the Gospel, having rec^d. the holy rites of Confirmation and the Emblems of a Saviour's dying love he closed his eyes in peace. I preached his funeral Sermon and performed the burial Service at his grave dug among the spreading oaks and in the green grass of our prairie. There he lies overlooking the sweet scene below him. — the green meadows in which are feeding the harmless flocks by the side of living water, Emblems of the those spiritual joys which we trust he is now partaking in that blessed land where the wise leave from troubling, and where the weary are at rest. — But to return shall I have room to say any thing worthy of Henry and Mary and Philander? — I fear not. They are all grown up and while they learn a little ^{of books} are working hard for a living.

The best I can say of them is that they are not unmindful
of their spiritual concerns. Both Henry & Mary have ^{renounced}
their British vows, and walk as become to the ^{Christian} ~~Christian~~ ^{use} ~~use~~
of light. Ph^r is young; but I trust and witness some ~~se~~
soon impressions. He reads many of the pious books sent him
from England, and is submissive to his parents' will.
I had some hopes, by hiring a man to oversee my ten-
=pound and farming concerns, to afford my boys some
respite from labour so much at least as to fit them
for College; but this hope is vanished since the Hall's
more resolutions of the Board of Missions. They must be
farmers and not Clergy men. Even Dudley, whom you
mention so kindly, must return to the plough; if he is not
already on his way home, I think he will not long delay
his coming.

And what shall I say more? I need say nothing about
myself please you? - Surely you will rejoice when
I tell you I am more and more confirmed in
the truths of our holy Faith and feel more and more
its heavenly consolations. Death, you say, is terri-
ble. But Jesus has overcome death opened the
Kingdom of Heaven to all who believe & trust in him.
- as to the Agonies which appointed, perhaps they are
not so great as you imagine. And if they be, God
can support us. Let us then take courage: all
will be right, all will be blessed next, when it
is said that we are gone. Yours truly Brother
Philander 1837

* I did find him & became an