

Philander Chase Letters

10-13-1837

Letter to Mary Olivia Chase

Philander Chase

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Jacksonville N. C. Oct 15th 1837.

K. Ch. 371013

My dear Grand Daughter:

I believe you are in my debt: but loving you as I do I can not forbear writing again because of the love I bear you: and because I have a moments leisure I am here in Jacksonville at the home of Dr. Gillett who was fellow student with your Father at the academy in Randolph Vermont. - He remembers the pleasures he took with one whose memory is so dear to me & whose piety & philanthropy you ought to cherish so sedulously in your own bosom. If the spirit of your Father and my loved son is permitted to look down upon me his aged and care worn father when writing this letter to his own and only child might we not fancy he would guide my pen to speak of things which pertain to the kingdom of blessedness which he is enjoying? - Yes dear, dear, Mary he would. And what shall I say to you when under the influence of this solemn consideration? - Shall I not beseech you to remember your Creator in the days of your youth - Shall I not point you to the Saviour who poured out his blood for you in the garden and on the Cross that you might be pardoned and sanctified for his sake here below and made partaker of his kingdom in an eternal world? - Should temptations arise inviting you to taste of the forbidden pleasures of a wicked world, would he not be - ~~not~~ say to you in this very letter: beware of sin, turn your face from all things that will offend the eye of Purity? Show yourself at the feet of the cross for pardon of every sinful thought; and implore his heavenly grace to purify yourself even as he is pure

Remember that the life this which you are passing has no value in it but as it is a journey to a better, God's infinite benevolence forbids us to believe that he wd. have ever sent us into this state of being for the enjoyment of the few miserable pleasures, (if they may be called pleasures at all) which it affords. - The eternal world which awaits us at the end of this is the object he sets before us: and having forfeited all title to that by reason of sin, the redeeming love manifested by the Son of God on the Cross bearing our sins that we might live becomes to us the chief and only thing which deserves our attention. Were you in debt beyond the power of redemption by any thing and every thing that you possess, wd. not the tidings that this great debt was paid by some good and benevolent person absorb every other consideration? Would you not leap for joy & fly to this bounty and thank the author of it with your whole heart, and comply with every direction for the securing of the same to yourself & factually with the most sedulous attention? - Repating & even lukewarmness in a case like this would be crimes for which there wd. seem no forgiveness.

Now dear Mary apply this to the great subject of our redemption by Jesus Christ, and behold the extent of love & gratitude and devotion of heart & soul to the service of Almighty God which are required of us as Christians! - Where wd. be the reasonableness of any excuses for our insensibility not to see flagrant sins in neglecting so great a salvation as this which is revealed to us in Gospel?

I am aware of the vanities of youth and the many subtleties
which young persons are apt to make off to when truth
is brought to view: but this will not deter me from speaking the truth to you in plainness and
simplicity. God in mercy giveth grace according to the
degree of the temptation which he suffers to befall us: and
though you may be young and have many temptations
to lead you off from the path of devotedness to the service of
your Redeemer, yet the divine arm is able ^{to endue you with the strength} to resist them
all, and with many your namesake of old enable you to
obtain the better part which shall not be taken from you.
— Thus much I have written as if my pen were guided by
your ^{loving} Father. What think you of it?

They do not burn with heavenly power as
his words if he were permitted to speak in heavenly
language yet remember they are true as far as they go; for they
accord with ^{the} written revealed will of God: and as such I beseech
you to let them sink deep into your heart & bring forth
fruit in your life.

I am to preach this night in the Church and day after to-
morrow am to administer the Holy Ordinance of Confirma-
tion to a few faithful persons prepared by the pious care of the
good Mr. Batchelder the Rector. On Monday I return, if the
Lord will, to my humble dwelling in Peria Co. May I not
expect to hear from you soon? — Do write to me & with freedom
Be sure to give my best love to your heavenly minded Parents
and believe me always your loving Grand Father
Philander Chase

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Miss Mary Chase

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