

Philander Chase Letters

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10-5-1841

## Letter to Joseph Denison

Philander Chase

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From  
Mrs. Jamison

KCH 411005

## BISHOP CHASE'S LAST APPEAL.

BISHOP CHASE is now in the Atlantic States. He has come from the Far West for the double purpose of attending the General Convention, and to solicit donations enabling him to complete his great work of JUBILEE COLLEGE. He knows the times are hard; but he also knows that the greater the sacrifice, the more acceptable to Heaven is the offering.

His College is now commenced, two Professors being engaged and at work. The price of tuition and board (only \$60 per annum) being so moderate, all the rooms and dormitories in the school-house and college hall will be occupied this winter, so that the time to erect the *College Proper* has now arrived: but to commence it he dare not till endowed with more funds. He must stop improvements and receive no more scholars, or plunge himself in debt, an evil which hitherto he has, happily for himself and the Church, carefully avoided.

Will not a generous public assist him in this his last effort to complete an institution which promises so much good, where means of religion and learning are so much wanted? The tide of immigration is setting fast into the State of Illinois—many are flying thither to find for their families a home: and shall they go thither with no means of perpetuating the religion of their forefathers? Let those who remain here in wealth and comfort, cast but a gracious eye on those who leave for ever the Atlantic shores and the institutions for which their ancestors bled and laboured,—let the elder, who remain at home, and whose is all that our fathers won, but give the younger a *parting blessing*, as they go, they know not whither, to people our rising country at the west, and the favour will never be forgotten. The names of the donors to Jubilee College will be embalmed in the tears, in the *grateful tears*, of all western posterity. As a bond of union, then, between the east and the west for ever, may God put it into the hearts of many to give liberally to the erection of the main building of Jubilee College!

Let it be remembered that Jubilee is not of an ephemeral character. It has landed property to secure its future welfare. If it have the means necessary to erect its principal College, a building worthy of its present endowment in lands, it cannot fail of being the greatest blessing to the Far West, and of commanding the respect and admiration of the world.

Let it also be borne in mind, that Bishop Chase has peculiar claims on the Church and country, for aid in this undertaking of his declining years. His whole life has been devoted to the promulgation of learning and religion in the West and South. He has impoverished himself—has been always ready to advance his own money, as well as his own labour, and that of his family, to this end. It was he who instituted the first churches in Western New York. It was he who founded the first Protestant Church in Louisiana. It was he who organized the first Diocese west of the Alleghany mountains. It was he who, with indescribable labour and sufferings, collected the funds and cleared off the wild wood, to found Kenyon College; himself and his relatives giving the tenth part of sixty thousand dollars to that Institution. It was he who first preached the gospel according to our primitive Church in the wide-spread St. Joseph's country: and it is he and his devoted family who now, without any salary, and at their own charges, are sustaining the honour and usefulness of the Episcopate of Illinois, and are now building up Jubilee College—an Institution which, judging from past providences, is destined to be the glory of the western world. Would to God that this child of his holy will might gain the further favour of the enlightened and wealthy part of the Christian community! To this end let its beautiful site, crowned with trees overshadowing its professors' houses, its holy chapel, adorned with a bell and beauteous organ speaking forth the Redeemer's praise; let its college hall, filled with students, its busy mill, giving forth sawed timber to supply the buildings and to fence the fields, in which are now grazing some half thousand sheep, while other fields pour forth the golden harvest, rise to view. In the centre of the elevated crescent, where cross the public roads, stands the well-finished ware-house, filled with goods, sold at profit solely for the benefit of the College; onward further the farm-house and barn, and another professor's house, now being built—all these on a domain of more than three thousand acres of the best of land, all the property of Jubilee College, all, all PAID FOR. And shall these advantages, gained at such sacrifices, be unproductive or stationary for want of a College building? Shall this great and endearing enterprise be crushed in its progress? Shall this ROSE OF THE WESTERN PRAIRIES fade in its bud, without making one effort more to water its thirsting roots, and to cause it to live and *not* die, and to shed its fragrant influence throughout our western, far western land?

Both reason and duty say *ay*. Bishop Chase looks to his country for better things. He anticipates a crowning blessing to his long protracted labours for the public good

Necessity compels him to remain but a few days more in the Atlantic States. In person he can see but a few of those whom he thanks and loves. He entreats his benefactors to be speedy in their bounty, sending their offerings to the care of his banker, JAS. F. DE PUYSTER, Esq., No. 49 South-street, New York.

New York, 1st October, 1841.

D<sup>r</sup> Peniston

5<sup>th</sup> of Oct New York

Dear Mother

I have no moment to say to you that I am well  
 and doing well, & in a letter from home say that the Clack-  
 sea Draft on Suffolk Bank Boston had arrived at the No  
 breakfast on or before the 21<sup>st</sup> of Sep<sup>r</sup>. With best love to dear  
 Mr Rachel & all yours  
 ever faithful P. Chase

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some words like "Dear Mother" and "P. Chase" are faintly visible.]*



per p. 10  
P.M. Robinson  
9th

Joseph Seniffa -  
Rayston  
Permont

