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Philander Chase Letters

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2-1843

## Letter to Charles McIlvaine

Philander Chase

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382  
1924  
To the Right Rev.  
Dr. M. M. McNamee  
Rector of Ohio

Jubilee College Feb:

Dear Brother in Christ: Will you

a letter, not long ago, from your Presbyter, the  
Rev. Mr. Muench. I had no idea of the deficient  
state of the finances of Kenyon College. He told me  
that there <sup>were</sup> more than 30,000 \$ - which the Trustees  
of the Theological Seminary had no available  
means of paying to their creditors.  
This news, you may well suppose, was exceedingly  
- by painful to me, who had spent so great a portion  
of my best days and of my earthly substance  
in founding so useful an institution; and to save  
which from perishing by strife, I had been content  
to go into the wilderness and commence my labours  
new.

In reply, I told Mr. M., in substance, the true  
nature and history of the case, between me and Ohio,  
my first divorce; and in conclusion observed that if  
they <sup>(The Ohio Convention)</sup> would declare officially what they had already  
done virtually, in the case of yourself against the  
Rev. John Sparrow, ~~at Steubenville~~ <sup>at Steubenville</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~thereby~~ <sup>thereby</sup> ~~acknowledging~~ <sup>acknowledging</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup>  
injustice had been done <sup>me</sup> the founder by the Conven-  
tion of 1831. who required ~~me~~ <sup>me</sup> to violate ~~their~~ <sup>my</sup> conscience  
or quit the presidency of the Institution. I would free-  
ly forgive their injury done me, by their reports so  
widely



widely spread that I had left my station without  
an adequate reason, and was with respect to the  
business of the bank, and the time.

And that in the mean time I would every thing in  
my power ~~to~~ <sup>aid them</sup> help in paying off their debt.

About a month after my letter to Mr. Munroe was sent I ~~learned~~<sup>learned from the City Recorder that</sup> you had summoned a Special Convention the object of which was to deliberate on the measure of selling the South Section 4000 acres of land in the middle of which were the buildings an act which I knew would forfeit most of the donations which I had collected for the Institution. If I had been astonished before at the indebtedness of the Institution, I was doubly so by this mode of relief.

Not long after this came Mr. Muench's answer, but not <sup>dealing</sup> touching the subject of <sup>my</sup> ~~my~~ <sup>responsibility</sup> ~~responsibility~~, and with it the journal of the Special Convention, at the reading of which I have no words adequate to the expression of my surprise. Happily the Rev. Samuel Chase the Head Teacher of Jubilee College was with me, a man not only of known tried integrity and ~~unimpaired~~ <sup>accurate</sup> knowledge in book-keeping, but one, <sup>who</sup> ~~who~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>eye</sup> ~~eye~~ <sup>vitness</sup> ~~vitness~~ <sup>some</sup> ~~some~~ <sup>time</sup> ~~time~~ <sup>before</sup> ~~before~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the <sup>fact</sup> ~~fact~~ <sup>referred</sup> ~~referred~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>paper</sup> ~~paper~~ <sup>on</sup> ~~on~~ <sup>Gambier</sup> ~~Gambier <sup>Hill</sup> ~~Hill~~. For a year after I left it. Into this man's hands I ~~placed~~ <sup>placed</sup> your journal and financial address and other papers mercifully preserved by Providence in my <sup>preparation</sup> ~~preparation~~ to give light on the important subject. Mr. C. took the whole and after due attention returned me the following note:—  
Pray read it, for I have done so; and to~~~~



the best of my recollection and judgment believe  
every thing he states to be correct and true.  
Concerning the authorship of your fanciful  
statement, I entirely concur with him, and  
it relieves my mind in so doing. viz That you  
<sup>are</sup> not the originator of this singular statement,  
but that you only put your name to it, be-  
lieving it to be correct. Under this impression I

most respectfully and affectionately desire you  
come over to review all you <sup>& others</sup> have written on  
this subject; and examine the accounts of  
the Institution yourself, with the aid of some  
disinterested and competent Accountant;  
and finding the errors specified and others  
which may still <sup>remain</sup> be hind whereby the Repu-  
tation <sup>of the Institution</sup> and his plans <sup>now</sup> (under your  
mistaken statement) do most materially  
suffer; you may <sup>enjoy</sup> the exquisite pleasure  
of doing justice to <sup>an</sup> the injured <sup>man</sup> ~~unfortunate~~  
being the better Christian principle  
and being ~~perhaps~~ <sup>perhaps</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~at all~~ <sup>at all</sup>  
harshly before God. I turn over for the conclusion

Pray let me know what you intend  
to do on this subject and write me at your  
earliest convenience and thus much oblige  
Your faithful & affectionate Brother  
in Christ I am an Lord  
Phil<sup>l</sup> Chase



Your statements, being before the public  
it is but justice <sup>to</sup> me if the same be incorrect that  
it be contradicted as soon as may be  
Both Mr Chase and myself think we know  
it to be so and consequently in the necessity of  
your statements having gone to the public something  
to show their incorrectness if incorrect they be must  
soon appear. To prevent the necessity of a painful  
publication on my part will you not have the  
goodness to publish your correction & allude the  
wounded feelings of an injured brother?  
Ever faithful  
PL

Copy of 15p Chase  
Letter to Mr  
Harrison  
July 1843