
Philander Chase Letters

8-11-1843

Letter to Philander Chase

William Heathcote DeLancey

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Geneva Aug 11 1843

My dear Bishop

Yours of the 31st of July reached me yesterday.

In regard to the ordination of Mr Carey several publications in New York which could not have reached you prior to the ^{of your letter} date have greatly modified the statements of Dr Smith & Anthon, & diminished confidence in their accuracy, not to say flatly contradicted some of their allegations. Mr Haight, Mr Price, Dr Seabury, & Mr Carey himself, have each published on the subject.

Though I am a Hugonot by descent, & have a hereditary hostility to Rome, yet, after a sober view of the case, I do not see how Bp O. could have done otherwise than ordain Mr Carey, when satisfied by ^{his own} private examination of him, & satisfied by the advice of six out of eight ^{examining} presbyters.

In regard to the "tendency to Rome" supposed to exist among the clergy or laity in the Church I hold it to be a figment of the imagination & that its chief support as well as origin lies in the misapprehension, & misrepresentation

of those who are hostile to the C. M., & curious
of its rapid extension, abetted by the ill judged
tone & conduct of certain religious newspapers,
& the unfledged theology of some inexperienced
book worm students. For myself I have no
fears for the sound protestantism of the
Church. Nor do I think any thing more is
necessary than that the Bishops in their seve-
ral Dioceses should exhort the clergy to go on
in the faithful & zealous discharge of their
ministerial duties, preaching the Gospel in
the Church, & maintaining her long tried
doctrines & polity & worship, without inter-
meddling with speculations, & distinctions &
niceties which minister to strife & not to
edification. In my judgment the "Op-
ford" tide had already attained its height
& was on the ebb before this disturbance
in New York occurred! Prudence & Patience
under the good providence of God, will bring
the disturbed waters to the true calm, &
I doubt not, my dear Bishop, but that
if your valuable life is spared, you will
in September 1844 preside over a ^{General} con-
vention as united & harmonious as
any that has ever met in this
country. "May the Author of peace
& Love & Concord" verify this prediction!

In regard to Texas, what you state is quite new to me. A national organization of the Chh. there, prior to our general convention will save us from much trouble. In conveying the Episcopacy to them we should exact such security against error & heresy of all sorts as the Chh of England required of us under a similar application & such as the nature of the case will admit. The precise form in which the security should be given is a nice question. The mode you suggest is probably the best, & possibly the only mode that can be adopted. We ought to be reasonably assured that the Liturgy, Offices, & Articles of the Protestant Episcopal Chh will be adhered to. In offering these views confidentially addressed to you, be assured of my sincere regard, & of my earnest prayers for your welfare, & for the largest success to your devoted & self denying labors in Illinois.

Commending you & the Chh over which you preside, with your particular Diocese to the guidance & control of the ever blessed Spirit

I remain truly your friend & brother
W. H. De Lancey

Rev. Dr. Chase
Robt. A. Ait.

Will

To the Rev. Dr. Chace
P. O.
Robins Nest No.
Illinois

