
Philander Chase Letters

8-19-1844

Letter to William Sparrow

James May

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Wickersham Aug. 19. 1844

Rev. & dear brother,

I arrived here a few days ago (on the 16th) and now summon you to be & appear here also in your proper person as soon as possible after receiving this letter. I can assure you of a cordial welcome & of as much enjoyment as is to be found in a beautiful valley & in intercourse with a kind people. To speak seriously, we do certainly expect you here and are not willing to be put off. You can come from Baltimore either by way of Philad.^a and Mauch Chunk or by way of York & Hanisburg. There is a Railroad from Baltimore to York by which travellers leave Baltimore at 9 o'clock A. M. & proceed from York to Hanisburg by stage & thence by canal. If you come by Philad.^a the route is by the Pottsville & Reading Rail Road to Port Clinton to Mauch Chunk & so to Wickersham by canal on the Lehigh & Rail Road. From Philad.^a take passage through to Wickersham. Now we shall look for you at once.

As to diocesan matters, I think Dr. Dyng will be elected assistant Bp. at the Special Convention. This may be regarded as in the highest degree probable, unless events occur now not thought of. The vote of evangelical men as a body will be in his favour. He thinks Bp. O. will be tried & (not degraded but) suspended for a term of years (e.g. 5 or 7). The Bp. he thinks has reformed & may yet become effective in his station. But the voice of the

diocese is loud and strong against Bp. O. & nothing
will ever give him a hold on the confidence of the body
of the members of the ch. Even if he ^{be} suspended, I do not
think that he will ever again be so restored as to exer-
cise his office. If he can be put aside in no other way
it will be by a private arrangement. If summoned
to trial, he has said, he will not appear. If he appear
it is thought, he will plead guilty in general, but offer
extenuating circumstances. He has great fear of having
exposed his familiarity with females, & on that count
he may plead not guilty, & rely on the delicacy of females
to prevent testimony to the fact being found. The ch.
will be greatly injured & the public scandalised if an exam-
ple be not made of him. Hooker (Herman) thinks the
Bp. will not be degraded & destroyed because of the max-
im that "Sheep will not eat mutton", the Bp. being the
~~mutton~~ mutton & the count for trying him, the sheep.

Time will soon open the seal.

My best regards to Mr. Spaw, & your children.
My letter, I presume, will find you at home, as
Hooker (who met you at Shepherdstown) told ^{me} "you were
about to go home."

Your affectionate friend

James May.

Dr. May.

1881/4

Rev. Mr. Opanow D. D. P. M.

Theological Seminary
Fairfax County
Virginia

Williams Pa
1844