

Philander Chase Letters

1844

Mistakes about Kenyon College and Major Douglas

Philander Chase

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1. ^{a mistake in} supposing the Theological Seminary could if
he acted according to the will of the Founders, ever have
a President other than the Bishop of the Di-
ocese -

That the Bishop should and shall be Presi-
dent of the Institution is its Corner Stone
Take away this and the whole fabric falls.

This principle entered into the heart of the
preliminaries to the Constitution framed by
the Convention of Ohio as a vessel is ^{the oil} furnished to hold
the precious gifts from England obtained by the
undersigned. See Charles Haysmonds report
advising the mode in which the Convention
were legally to dispose themselves of the contri-
butions from England. "The Bishop must be
President always residing on the ^{college premises} ~~land~~ &
having the management and superintendence
of the whole". It was a great mistake to overlook
this principle by supposing that a Charter from
the Legislature ^{would annihilate} ~~could~~ or alter it. Being a prin-
ciple worthy as well as natural for the Donors to
make in order to secure the fulfilment of their
design in rearing an Episcopal institution it
could not be altered without ~~betraying~~ the Donations

and creating a right in the Donors to re-
-ter on the Yusepium of their gifts made on the
violated condition ^{at the conservation of B. M. Hartfully}

2 It was a mistake in those who ^{in 1832} persuaded the
House of Bishops, to declare ~~that~~ there was not
necessarily a connexion between the B. of W. Mass
& the Theological Seminary of Ohio.

No declaration of this kind or any other body
of men however respected can destroy the
nature of contracts ~~made in good faith~~

~~for the purpose of conformity with the~~
~~Principles of the Land.~~ When the money, ^{tendered} was ~~given~~

to the Convention for the founding of the Theo-
-logical Seminary of Ohio the conditions of

^{reception} ~~to use were~~ made known and declared by
the chairman of the Committee's Report of the
~~Committee to Receive the Report of the~~

Charles Hammond ^{the Convention} and acted accordingly.

By this act, the Church of Ohio held out
her hand, took the Donations, & thereby
solemnly pledged herself to obey the Condition

- and the first of these was that the Bishop
of the Massachusetts shall be President. By

this she was bound from that moment as in a con-
-tract - So long as the Theological Seminary were in exis-

-tence the Bishop of that Diocese was to be connected
it in the manner specified in the donations. The
only possible way to break this connexion was not to
return the donations to the donors. To suppose it
otherwise was a mistake in the house of Bishop.

3. The great principle of the founding of the Semi-
nary of Ohio being to educate ministers of the Gospel
and to inculcate religious truths as understood by the Epis-
copal Church of the U.S. for that purpose being officially
supported ^{most truly competent} the only fit person to ensure this design - it is
obvious that no layman could or can be appointed
even as a vice-President of any part or parcel
of this Institution. ^{for such are not subject to the Congress or the Clergy} It was a mistake before even
thinking that Major Douglas or any other
secular or military man would with pro-
priety be appointed to the office which he held - were
supposing it to be subordinate to the Bp. - This was in-
dicated to the Major in Brooklyn N.Y. before that Gen-
tlemen went to Garrison. The undersigned told
him that he had no just claims to the presidency
or vice presidency of Kenyon College. His being
a layman rendered his appointment null.
In this the Major paid no regard.
Smarting under the consequences of these mistakes
the Bishop and Convention of Ohio would do well

to own their fault publicly in this respect as well as in other things too numerous to be mentioned here and to return to a better mind.

Altho their Charter has by the founder been deemed forfeited by their "mistakes" yet he has undertaken to proceed to trial as the agent of the donors. - Let us then mean to mind what being aided by providential circumstances may bring the Convention & Bishop of Ohio to a better mind even so as to go back and reform all their mistakes. Perhaps the

present occurrence and the cause of writing the present article ^{careful as it is} may be viewed as a kind intimation of the Divine Goodness that there is now an opportunity for Ohio to make reparation of her faults. Most gladly will the undersigned ^{not only} ~~be~~ forgive the injuries they have done him as make known to the world in his remission but afford all the explanation and advice in his power to put Kenyon College on more on the ^{original} right ground & thus restore the injured

ings not only of the Donors in general but espe-
cially of ^{The} Noble & most esteemed Person from
whom the Institution received its name

Phil. Chase

[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

K.C.L. 441332

Mistakes

K College

after reading

Major Douglas

Pamphlet