
Philander Chase Letters

1-9-1845

Letter to Philander Chase

Timothy Wiggin

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London Janry 1845

My Dear friend

I have delayed writing to you for a very long time in the hope of being able to place some money at your disposal. But Mortimer's partner disappointed me by not keeping his repeated promises to pay me the amount realized for your reminiscences. I at last obtained his promissory note payable in 4 months for about £34 due about February next and if paid will place the amount with some 5 or 6 pounds from other sources with Mess^{rs} Ralston to be paid to your order in Philadelphia. The amount will be about £40 in all. Two Miss Sacks have sent me a check for thirty shillings. There the all absorbing topic is Puseyism. The Bishops of London & Exeter have been the most prominent actors & the result is unfavorable to their judgement & reputation as Divines. They have caused much strife and irritation in their dioceses and beyond. There is not ill will in neighborhood or families. The tide has turned against them & I doubt not they would gladly get back to the starting point but this they cannot do. They have raised a flame which they cannot extinguish. The high & low Church are arrayed against each other in irreconcilable hostility and the high Church party are the schismatics. They recommend peace & good will while they are blowing the flame. I think the movement will be withdrawn as the best thing that can be

done under existing circumstances, but this will not
restore harmony. Perhaps a revision of the Rubric
& articles of the Church may take place and produce
greater uniformity in Church service. It is much to be
regretted as its tendency is degrading to the Church
while it strengthens dissenters. I fear such will be the
effect in America. We are now living in a small
village called Barnes about 6 miles from Harley
Street which we like better than town. My health
& Mrs. Wiggins's has improved since we came here
and dear Adeline's is much the same. She is now
our only child at home. Mr. Beaumont & Charlotte
are in the South of France for the benefit of the
health of the former, who has been quite an
invalid for the last two years. Holme & Frederick
are very well and employed in paper making from
Stroud in Gloucestershire. William is now Rector
of Oldington in the same County & Son-in-law of the
Dean. He is a very promising young man & in high
favor with his Bishop. Maria is well married and
lives at the University in Glasgow of which her
husband is Professor of Law. Eliza Emily & Augustus
are in America which you probably know. My
misfortune, in America to diminish my business
or to render it unprofitable for my sons to engage in other
lines and I trust they will do well. Perhaps the
loss of most of my property may not ultimately be
disadvantageous to them as their reliance is now
chiefly upon their own exertions and property derived
from industry is more valuable than when inherited.

The Bishop of London has been a zealous promoter
of Church building and I believe he has consecrated
over 40 in and about London. The livings were placed
at his disposal and he has given them to Presbyterians
which has much displeased the contributors &
disappointed them also for people will not attend
them. Funds for building more, although wanted, cannot
be raised if the presentations are to belong to him.
The Bishop of Exeter has not been more judicious,
but the other Bishops are Spectators rather than
actors. I hope you will be supported in your
undertakings by the good people in America on
whom I fear you must rely as little or nothing
more can be expected here. You have many
warm friends here but their means are never
directed to other objects, namely to the promotion
of religion in the Colonies, and to provision for
poor at home. I am sorry to say pauperism is on
the increase here and that it appears that it
increases with the increased means provided for
the poor. Our Statistical reports show that benevolent
institutions (Hospitals &c. excepted) induce more
necessities than they relieve. Emigration is not much
encouraged except to the Colonies where the better
sort go, although the overseers of the poor in London
are not unwilling to empty their poor houses
by shipping their most wretched immoral poor
for New York. It is to be regretted that good honest
hardworking farmers do not go to the new American
States where their condition would soon be greatly
improved, but America is in disgrace here which
prevents such emigration. Repudiation by a few has
tainted the whole American character and the late
Presidential election has much diminished confidence

here in the general government

DE

PAID
JAN 27
1845
PEORIA ILL

Rev. Right Rev. Bishop Chase

Peoria College

Near Peoria

Illinois

Jan 9 - 1845
Miss Wagon

Alice Chase
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