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Philander Chase Letters

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5-22-1845

## Letter to Rachel Denison

Philander Chase

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Answer  
Mrs. J. J. J. J.

1845  
Jubilee College May 22  
K Ch 450522

Dear Sister Rachel;

Here I am as full of care as ever, but I trust all my cares and studies are concerning another and a better state than this. If they were not they would be worse than useless.

You know when we were young and used to read of men <sup>hasting</sup> ~~going~~ thro' the world & at its close of their "going into the Shades of Retirement" and "enjoying the fruits of a well spent life." Such descriptions were very fascinating; but they were as we witness with sorrow all founded in romance not in fact. — There is no such thing ever designed by Providence. In the first place man at his best is but an unprofitable servant to his Heavenly Master and has no right to think of starting here on earth any rest and fruits of real enjoyment. Since the earth was cursed for sin there fruits don't grow here below: and if we be so foolish as to think they do we lay in for disappointment to grow upon. Better far better it is for us to lay up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal. In the second place the very nature of our state



forbids us to think of reward till trial is over, the whole  
day of it closed in the night of the grave. Should a  
soldier think of a triumph till the battle is won?  
Should the mariner cast anchor in the midst of  
the sea before his voyage is over & he arrived in the  
Haven where he would be?—And shall the Christian  
Labourer think his day's work is done till his  
Master calls him from the field, and gives him  
to sit down, when all his work is finished to rest  
in his presence? No, no, dear Sister our Chris-  
tians this and our own experience, I trust, have  
taught us better things than these. Let worldly  
minds continue to be deceived and endeavour to de-  
ceive others with hopes of Rest & real enjoyment here  
but let us work while the day lasts in our  
Masters vineyard even till the night of  
the grave fall upon us. Then we shall be call-  
ed to <sup>go</sup> thro' the dark valley of the shadow of death  
to meet our Masters face. Oh that it may be  
in peace thro' the atoning blood of him who died  
for us!—I trust I trust—but it is the trust of faith  
—concerning things hoped for; the evidence of  
things not seen." This view of things eradicates  
two great errors from the heart of man: The



The one is the fatal mistake mentioned above viz  
that this world was meant for enjoyment inter-  
moral rest, and the other is that it is ever <sup>to</sup> cease to  
be a state of trial and amount to a certainly  
of even future felicity. We are to judge no man not  
even not ourselves before the time. God will sit  
in judgment on our whole life and if we judge  
before that life is finished may not our judgment  
be different from his?

My view of things by no means deadens faith  
nor clips the wings of hope but rather the contrary.  
I feel more of both than ever I did. This quickens  
me in the path of duty so that I have not a  
moment to spare. In this I am joined  
my wife and our dear children. We are all  
hard at work in perfecting our School of the  
Prophets. We now number about 50. most of  
whom are looking forward to the Ministry. <sup>spangled</sup> Some  
of them having their time of study, are to be or-  
dained on the 8<sup>th</sup> of the coming June about the  
time you'll receive this letter. — We now number  
21. Clergymen here in Illinois. How different the  
field looks from what it did, when first sented to  
God be praised for all the good which hath come upon  
us & which hath appeared in spreading the gospel here in  
the prairies of the far west. Hark! late at night  
to the sweet adieu! from loving Philander

My best love to yr dear husband and children. M. G. P. Cummings is a good teacher  
of the natives and Stephen Child (both our dear relatives) is a good school teacher. My  
dear friends the  
Cummings family



Robinson & Co  
May 24,

per return Wm

Mrs. Rachel Denison  
Royalton  
Vermont