

Philander Chase Letters

11-12-1845

Letter to Philander Chase

Josiah Allport

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K. Ch. 451112
Birmingham
Nov 12 1845

Right Revd & Dear Sir,

About ten days ago I received your letter of the 13 of Sept^r last with the parcel containing a copy of your Reminiscences. I cannot say how much I feel gratified & honoured by your kindness. I wish you had done me one mark of favour that of inserting your name in the Book. I would fain see some memento of the great blessing you have done me to ensure if possible its continuance in my family. You have been long known to me in part for your zealous & self denying labours in the cause of our great Master, through the various channels in which they have been noticed. Your your last visit to this country, which I first heard of at good lady Rogers's whom I was in the habit of visiting for the last 6 or 7 years of her life on her removing near this place, I wrote to Mr Hadwell Horne not knowing the ecclesiastical regulations respecting you to beg him if he saw or communicated with you, to say that as he put was at your service should you visit Birmingham in which to plead your own cause when he informed me there were government restrictions against it. I believe they are now done away - if not they ought to be as regards American Episcopalians.

Since I received your Reminiscences I have stolen a couple of hours each evening from my bed & affairs has been quiet & other private duties done to peruse them. I have not got far yet into Vol II - but I have read enough to inspire my heart with the warmest affection towards you & with earnest desires to do something to serve you in your present laudable exertions. I am a poor man myself - very

poor - not having an income in a most expensive & laborious
sphere here to maintain myself & family - mine being an un-
endowed Chapel - having to support all its own necessary expen-
ces & with no house attached to it. But the Lord has hitherto
provided for me & mine & does provide. Such has been his dis-
tinguished goodness towards me, under the charge of 12 children
(7 daughters now living) the rest in heaven & trust I believe that
I have inserted on my seal F. P. (Felix Providentia) & for
20 or 15 years I have tried to live by faith I ought to do so -
But the poor in this world's good & no honours to commend me
to the Patronage of the great for preferment - God has given me an
pressing influence among good men, throughout this whole
Kingdom - I have written to Mr Home & Mr Stowel about
you to see what can be done, as we must try - I want at all
event - I do not find Mr Amusey's name, whom you mention
in our Clergy list or I would have written to him but I shall
enquire after him & do so, if I can find him out. Your expe-
rience & trials & principles so accord with my own in my mea-
sure that I cannot but sympathize with you from the bottom of
my heart. Good Bishop Myder appointed me to this Post about
15 years ago from one which was unengenderal to my health &
that of my family, as was evident by my losing 4 Children in it
my two eldest sons & daughter betwixt 10 & 14 years & a younger
son. On coming here a controversy was soon after raised with the
Romanists, that not by me, but I could not but take my part in it
for their setting up a diocese - as I was unable to prevail on any
of my Brethren to meet it by another I resolved that they should do
these things their own way & brought out the Protestant Journal
the next month after theirs appear. This I conducted for 10 years
in your responsibility - beat them out of the field by the good will
of God & the aid of a few such men as Mr Home, then transfer-
red the diocese to the Reformation Society, being just knocked up in
my body & estate - I was your packer & porter & ac. totum -
but sparing no cost or pains with that & the publication of the
translation of St. Davenant's works on the Cross - I got about 500 £
in debt - which good Lady Hope & a few other kind & feeling friends
cleared off for me - It was at Lady Hope's instigation I sent you

a copy of the manuscript in the College for Henry College. You are
surely to suppose she has been dead this 5 or 6 years - but prior to
that lamented event she made me a present of 1,200 £ I would have
given me a sufficient sum to build me a Parsonage house could
I have got this Chapel, made a distinct thing or separate Rectory
I have in Educate my Daughters & to maintain a standing in
this sphere spent every shilling this 30th year ago - of that kind
some donation last summer the Duke of Manchester (Lady O
Sparrow's son in law) presented me with a Vicarage near their
Residence; but finding some of the great ones objected to me because
I had no degree - & the bulk of the people were anxious to retain
among them a Curate of 6 mo. standing. I fear mainly because his
wife inherited 4 thousand a year, thinking too that he was better
able to rebuild the Parsonage I put other things in order & as he
expressed a wish to continue, tho' he had refused the place before
it was offered me I resigned it; & here I am still having
virtually the care of 12 thousand souls mostly poor, with nothing
but the few rents of about one half of a Chapel. I mention
these things to prove to you that I must possess a congenial
spirit, & that you may not expect any thing from myself -
But with God's help I will try how I can influence others.
With this view I must get your Letter lithographed to circulate
among friends, for I have not time to transcribe it. If my
Daughters are out as Governesses, or as my organist & thus
their occupations the next superintendents of schools & their younger
sister - so that they have enough to do - So soon as I can see
any prospect or hope of success you shall hear from me; but
things are not as they were ten or 15 years ago with us
Prior to that time I had in a 20 years ministry raised above
20 thousand £ for our different charitable institutions & other
benevolent objects - for the last 10 years I have been trying to raise
a sum sufficient either to pay my rent annu or build a Parsonage of
an eligible site could be got - but I have not realized 500 £ I
say quarter by the multiplication of schools & the call for new Churches
& the increase & expansion of Missions calls the wealthy & benevolent are
so tried, that they are compelled to confine or distribute in their own
localities what they used to be glad to have a distant call to do.
I write off at once now my mind being made up to give you some
hope that you are not get hopeless here - So soon as I can see fit
I will write you again. When Vol II is out of Davenant in justice
a copy shall be forwarded with others, If I can pick up by any

means a copy of the work in the folios I write & sent it also -
 but it has been long out of print - and now I can only
 say I do fervently the Lord bless you as he has done - The Lord
 be your guide, your success & your stay - I let all good ness abound
 towards you still more & more. I am tho' unworthily -
 yet in our common & gracious Lord faithfully & affectionately
 Yours, Josiah Allport

There was now plan of your buildings either in the letter or books

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 College
 Library

NO 14
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Alice Chase
 Collection

~~Mr Wright Rev?~~
 Philadelphia
 Bishop of Missouri
 New York
 Answer

Rev Mr Allport
 New York
 Nov 12 1845