

Philander Chase Letters

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5-2-1846

## Letter to Rachel Denison

Philander Chase

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My dear sister! My only Sister Rachel

Before the reception of yours and your dear  
 daughters letters our dear Martha had told me  
 of her Fathers death and of the touching specta-  
 -cle at his burial - Brother Simon and your  
 self the only remnants of our <sup>family</sup> once numerous  
 being present and near the recent grave of  
 our beloved sister Alice weeping over the  
 Coffin of our much beloved brother Rybe  
 Lake Cotton. //

After reading her letter I thought

the fountain of tears had been dried by the  
 reflection which the Sun of Righteousness affords  
 - but your letter opened anew the flood  
 gates of grief. Not that you spoke of new things  
 but because I felt deeply that it was my <sup>own</sup>  
 sister, my only Sister Rachel who was speaking  
 to me - and her dear daughter Thomas my own  
 I dearly love - and so I read your letters over  
 more than once & then sent them <sup>across the way</sup> to our

Dudley to read. He also sympathizes as  
we all <sup>do</sup> on the Colley Hill sympathize in  
all you feel and suffer in Vermont

You say you are a Christian as well as  
myself. Yes, dear Rachel, and a much  
better one too if the truth were known.

But neither you nor I will be saved  
thru' our own merits. The Blood of Christ  
alone cleanseth from all sin. And this  
is the consolation which you seem to  
overlook. — You lament your  
coldness, and seem to fear death: I know  
of few but bear you company in lamenta-  
tions of this nature: But instead leading  
me to despair they make me cling closer  
to my Only Saviour. As the poor man  
who is ready to perish in the ocean in per-  
porting to his danger clingeth closer and

close to the hand. That is put forth to  
save him. To this hand of mercy put  
forth in the good tidings (that Jesus has de-  
ed for us) you and I must cling. Don't let us  
stop to count on our own merits, nor ward  
robe by which He will be influenced <sup>they</sup> to  
receive us. He came to us, not we to him.  
Our own righteousness is as filthy rags in his sight.  
His Merits are our Wedding garment.

Now Dear Sister, if you say all  
this you know already & still feel the  
want of faith, and after pleading in prayer  
that this faith may be increased and yet  
yet find you colder remain.  
I have but one word to say. What would you  
think of such want of confidence in your  
own children. You would tell them that  
their conduct was sinful; and such is your  
towards your heavenly Parent when you refuse  
to believe his word of mercy vated by the death  
of his Son. O Dearest Sister avoid this dreadful  
sin of "Making God Liar". Such are those  
"who believe <sup>not</sup> the testimony which God hath  
given of his Son." I am not well in bodily health -  
to the lingering distempers caused by my wounds I have  
now added a bad cough; some say it is a lung fever.

My dear Wife is all benevolent. <sup>Her</sup>son the Girl she is a  
Mother indeed. Poor Sarah Linn! who has not recovered  
her lying in sickness: is obliged to send her sweet infant to  
our home to be nursed by my wife: It is very difficult to  
get help of any kind in our Republican Country -  
Sarah has an abscess in her groin which we fear will detain her long  
on a bed of distress. -

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1848

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all the rest of you are quite well. Our family of workmen at  
Harris Hall is as large as ever of Carvers on the Coffin frame  
and of Brickmakers to go on with our College - At the Mills also all  
is a scene of business. - The saw mill running night & day - and  
the gristmill, one run of stone continually going. The other prepar-  
ing next week to commence the merchant flouring business  
to maintain two professors in Theology. So you see how busy we are.  
We will work while the day lasts. We like it is the work of God for <sup>your</sup> <sup>love's</sup>  
Philander Chase