
Philander Chase Letters

12-5-1846

Letter to Rachel Denison

Philander Chase

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Dear Sister Rachel,

I am a sincere mourner for my
youngest Child's Child - Philander Chase the fourth.
He was born while I was at the Convention at Galena some
time in June last - was remarkably hearty and had begun
to notice and be acquainted with me and it was perhaps
owing to his too full health that he was seized ^{with} fits and
indigestion.

On the 2^d of December hearing that he was
sick I went to see him as he lay in his Grad Mo
ther's arms - He fixed his dear eyes on me and once
~~smiled~~ ^{smiled} sweetly - and then gazed on my face till
I left the room. The next morning the 3^d of December
he died and on the 6th I went with the Family
to the Church and Dudley his uncle read the service
- After which the little Relatives and Pella Bearss
gathered round his coffin and looked into his lovely
countenance. The people all followed his remains

to the graveyard where he was deposited by the
side of Dear Samuels lovely Babes and where
also lies the remains of Samuels Brother Dudley -
and where if the Lord will, your own Bro -
the Philander will soon be laid - Full of this ^{even}
this expectation I myself read the Burial Service
and felt and still ^{feel} comforted.

My dear Son and his sweet wife Anna weep but it is
in silence and in a subdued spirit. We all feel the afflic-
ting stroke - being the first break in our family since
we left Ohio - God hath begun with the topmost bud

and tenderest & youngest branch. The rest will follow in
his own good time. All will be done.

Our summer and autumn
have been uncommonly warm: producing great debility
and followed by August. Spores, which though the cold
weather has set in still linger amongst us. Our scholars
diminish and nothing is as yet paid for the Benepuans.
Our trust however is unshaken. He that hath done a good
work among us will finish it to his glory.

I am now writing my 8th pt of my reminiscences
and is now doing enjoy over again the pleasing scenes
of my second visit to dear old England.

My grand daughter Mary Olivia Chase and her
Aunt Ann Wells ^{my} from Ohio are with us. They play
on our Church Organ and "make a joyful noise"
in praising God.

My own Daughter Mary is again
afflicted with Periodical Headaches which much
impair her health and enjoyments.

Owing to the exceeding and long continued dry
weather our streams of water are very low and
it is difficult to prepare our grain for food.
Our Mills of course are still a portion of the time
Our Henry who has the oversight of all our affairs & deals
at this as he does at the low price of our Wool. which
they say is occasioned by the "Locos" - Poor fellows they'll
find their punishment in (I fear) an untimely
death in Mexico. The Lord have mercy on them!

I would say something more on this last Mass of my
baker - but fear I tire you.

It is Saturday night - and tomorrow I have to preach
to the dear Boys and a few Neighbours. The rest of the
Congregation which used to attend have found a place
to worship in the Churches (3 in number) lately built
in this neighbourhood. They are supplied by our dear
Dudley and the Rev Mr R. Radley who has been
with us so long.

You see I grow old by my clumsy way
of writing. - But nothing alters my affec-
tions for you my beloved Sister and you
my dear Brother Denton. The last thro-
of my heart will be for your happiness especially
in another and a better world. As for the world we
live in it matters little now how it goes with
you and me. - The 52 Thousand Pounds Stating
[if it were not a hoax which it is, and one which casts
me down in paying postage of letters from the fools who
write them] would be no source of comfort to us.
One word of peace from the Lord Jesus Christ af-
-ing ~~me~~ of pardon for the past & grace for the
time to come would be more precious than it all.

Ever your faithful loving

Brother

Philander Chase

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Mrs. Rachel Denison
Royalton
Vermont.