

Philander Chase Letters

1-22-1851

Letter to Rachel Denison Sr. (sister)

Philander Chase

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Sub. Coll. Jan 22-57

Dear Sister

Last night while suffering much pain and distressing feelings incident to old age, I thought of you, my only sister; and then my thoughts went back to the time when you, with your infant James came down from Royaltor to Cornish to nurse and comfort our dear Mother suffering as I do. I forbore to wake any one; nor did she. My wife slept on, as you did in another room. The want of sympathy from an earthly relative was abundantly compensated by the presence of a vivid faith in Jesus who died for our sins and rose again to life for our justification. I think the nature of this faith is set forth in the words which the Saviour spoke to Martha. She had just professed her full belief in the doctrine of a general resurrection. "I know" says she "that my brother shall rise again at the resurrection." Then Jesus, to indicate the power of this faith him as always present, saith "I am the Resurrection and the Life, He that believeth in me tho' he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth & believeth in me shall never die."

We cannot reach a Reality not present but

faith can do it: and that's sufficient for
the present: and wakes the way of joy even on
the bed of sickness.

"Oh my dear Father!" our mother used to say to
our earthly Parent: "When shall we be in heaven
together?" He used to say "whenever God pleaseth!"
and that's enough to quiet all our pains and
anxieties for the present."

It is good for us, Dear Sister, that we have, in ad-
dition to all other mercies from God, such an exam-
ple to follow now undergoing the same sufferings
in approaching the grave.

The morning of this the 22^d day of Jan: is uncom-
monly pleasant. It seems like a may day morn
though there is still frost in the earth.

Henry's little boys Dudley and Frank having eaten
their breakfast before day came over from the
Robinsons with their Father and are with us at prayers
with two orphan children whose Parents died in Perse
about a year since They all say amen and the Lord's
Prayer with us.

We are all well in the City Hill. Samuel now
the Rev. Dr. Chan was here yesterday and though suffering
by reason of

a slight headache seemed in good spirits and truly
thankful to God for his Dear Children. They
do grow and promise to do well though so small
and unpromising at their birth. Sarah their Mother is
quite well - also dear Lucia their grand Mother is
in good health and brooding over her offspring with
maternal satisfaction.

I am better since I've eaten my breakfast -
If it were not that the warm weather will cause the
streets to be muddy I should think of taking some exer-
cise in walking. Perhaps the horse might be shared to drive
me out in the Quaker Coach a little this pleasant day
But all the teams are wanted on the College farms
and in filling the Ice Houses in carting coal and
boards and posts and Manure ^x so that I must
be content to stay at home & read my book and say
my prayer for all who love me & give me means to
go on with the great work given me to do before I
die.

I have now nearly finished my talkative letter
and feel much relieved by my pen, from the bare
reflection that it will be read by my much loved only
sister from her loving brother

Philander

X
S. horses are turning the wheel of the Sawmill at Lehigh, 2 or
3 miles from this

Jan 22. 54
Bp. Chase
Jubilee

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