

Philander Chase Letters

1-9-1851

Letter to a Friend at a Distance

Philander Chase

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Recommended Citation

Chase, Philander, "Letter to a Friend at a Distance" (1851). *Philander Chase Letters*. 1375.
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From
Mrs. Jamieson

Extract from a letter of Mrs Chase dated 12th of March 1852
in answer to a friend at a distance commending ^{his efforts} too highly.

K. Ch. 520109c

" Jubilee college Jan: 9th 1852

" Very dear Friend:

As to myself, I feel quite unworthy of the
congratulations of my friends, in the subject of founding two Colleges
in the West. I often think, that had any one else, of more talents &
more the object of the Divine favour, than myself, had undertaken
to be the Pioneer of the Church in building Colleges in the West &
far West of our country it would have been much better.

My Autobiography, which you so kindly commend gives the
evidence of the pertinency of this remark, up to the time of my
founding Jubilee-College in Illinois. Much more to the same
effect would my history afford, if continued to this time.

The loss of our Mills by fire, some years since, also the damages by
flood, and the failure of our wheat crops on the uplands, in the
summer last, and the devaluation in the price of wools of more
than two thousand sheep, joined with nameless other accidents all
brought us very low, making us feel deeply our own un-
worthiness. We, however, struggled on our journey of duty - ac-
quiring our own substance without interest, and assisted by
kind friends in England as well as in America, the bright pros-
pect of final success in securing to our beloved Zion an institu-
tion of Religion & Learning free from the temptations of a corrup-
ted world, seemed to open to our view. It is true our buildings were
poor compared with those whose foundations I had laid
in Ohio: but our hearts were whole and our faith strong,
Our external debts began to diminish: The number

of our Students increased to the full extent of your generous
actions, our acres under cultivation extended farther
and farther every year. Our improvements in houses fences
and hedges and fruit trees for the enjoyment of our sweet society
of Professors, and Teachers and their families on Jubilee Hill
grew with our growth & strengthened with our strength. *in*
'When alas!' a cloud has arisen darkening all our prospects

in Although I had taken the utmost care to pro-
cure the best of titles, by having purchased both the Tax title
and also the deed from the Patentee accompanied by the Pa-
tent itself - yet another deed from the Patentee (of a prior record
in Illinois) under which Minor ^{heirs} were said to be entitled to the half
section of land 320 acres - on which a great portion of our buildings
and improvements are situate.

One Cir. Court held in Springfield gave a decision in my
favour; and I thought all was safe. But another trial
was obtained in Chicago, wherein (I know not by what means)
the judgment of the court went against me: - and I must,

it seems, give up the land *and* pay the costs *and*
being ^{entirely} unable to pay ~~my own~~ ^{my own} ~~attorney's~~ ^{attorney's} ~~fees~~ ^{fees} for the
land a 2^d time it must go into other hands; and be liable to
was destructive of the very end and design of our benevolent Institu-

tion. I should sink under this difficulty and think no more
of me up to our Beloved Jubilee. were it not for our Motto

"I have a firm! God will provide;" ^{as again in the Psalm. O Tarry}
"in the Lord" ^{the story will be told for thy heart. But thou thy Trust}
Yours truly

Philander Chase M.P. of Ill

