
Philander Chase Letters

6-25-1852

Letter to Bishop Chase

Dr. Wainwright

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Recommended Citation

Wainwright, Dr., "Letter to Bishop Chase" (1852). *Philander Chase Letters*. 1391.
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London June 25th 1852
K. Ch. 5206257

W. Rev. Dear Sir

When I first arrived here I intended, after the Jubilee celebration to give you a full account of all that took place upon that interesting occasion, for although I never for a moment assumed that I stood in relation to the Church in what could strictly be called an official capacity, yet I felt that I had been placed in a highly honorable and prominent position, and that it would be incumbent on me to give some account of my mission - and to show could this be done with such propriety as to the presiding Bishop? From this duty however I have been most happily relieved by the presence of Bishops Melrose and De Lancey. I assure you that it is hardly possible to over estimate the importance of their coming. Every day convinces me that the beneficial effects of it in promoting mutual knowledge, mutual confidence, and mutual a zealous cooperation in carrying on the great work of missions between the two Churches will be soon and long manifested. This however and much more

D. Manning
Don 5th of June
and 20th July 1852

the Bishops will tell in their own way to the
Church at home, and it is proper for me to
leave it to them. I cannot however, dear
Bishop, refrain from writing to you a few
lines to express my own feelings in regard to
what I have experienced of the kind feelings
of our mother Church towards us, and of the
deep interest she takes in our welfare, and
the joy with which she hears of our growth and
prosperity. Nothing could exceed the cordi-
ality with which I was received by the Society
for the Propagation of the Gospel, and that simply
because I was in some sense the representative,
however inadequate and unworthy, of the A-
merican Church. I put over an account of the
proceedings upon that occasion & I presume
it has appeared in some of our religious jour-
nals, and that you have seen it. Because
I was regarded in this light I was at once in-
vited to preach the sermon on the closing eve-
ning of the Jubilee year at ~~the~~ St James's Church
Westminster, and also the sermon on the day
after at St Paul's Cathedral, on the anniversary of

the Society. Immediately however upon hearing
the welcome intelligence that by the postponement
of the trial of the Bishop of New Jersey, the delegated
Bishops would be able to come, I informed the Arch-
bishop of Canterbury, and withdrew my accep-
tance of these honorable appointments. I have the
satisfaction of feeling that they have been dis-
charged in a manner far superior to what could
have been done had they remained in my
private hands, but moreover an effect has been
produced by Bishops of our Church appearing
upon such important occasions which could
not have followed the appearance of any
Presbyter. I have been invited upon many
other occasions to preach and to say some-
thing in relation to our Church and give in-
formation in regard to it, which I have done.
I could not possibly embrace all the oppor-
tunities that have been offered, but where-
ever I have been the liveliest interest has
been felt to know more about our Church
and how its organization works with us.
Especially has there been a great desire
to hear how the lay element, as it is termed,
has answered with us. I have always said that

we esteem it a most valuable part of our system
and would on no account relinquish it. The great
body of the laity we have ever found the suppor-
ters of sound doctrine and primitive discipline. In
a word I may say that there is ~~not~~ throughout
the Church of England at the present time a strong
desire to learn more of us than they have done
heretofore, and a deeper interest in our welfare
than has been felt heretofore. And this visit
of the Bishops will tend greatly to promote these
sentiments. A crowning proof of what I have said in
regard to the feeling excited by our coming has just
been given at Oxford. We went there to attend the
Commencement, which every third year is celebra-
ted with more than common observances and is
therefore called the grand Commencement. And such
it was this year. The prominent object is to com-
memorate the benefactors of ~~Oxford~~ the University,
but occasion is taken to confer some honorary de-
grees. Upon the two Bishops and myself was con-
ferred the degree of Doctor in Civil Law which in
this University is the same as L. L. D. in other Univer-
sities. We certainly have reason to look upon this
as a very high distinction for it is by no means
a common one. But it is of the American Church
rather than of ourselves that this honorable re-
cognition has been taken. There was ~~also~~ another and

a more general expression of good will. A very fine
 just and large plate, silver gilt, and embossed
 with a scripture design, had been purchased
 by members of the University of Oxford to be pre-
 sented to the American Church. There was a
 large assemblage of the most distinguished per-
 sons in Oxford at Exeter College, and amongst
 them the Bishops of London Oxford Exeter
 and Chichester, and also the Bishop of Argyll and
 the Isles, from Scotland, together with many heads
 of Houses, as the principal officers of the Colleges
 are called collectively. There with many distin-
 guished strangers, and a large number of ladies
 formed a brilliant assemblage. The price
 of rich and handsome plate as a token of affection-
 ate interest on the part of Oxford in the Amer-
 ican Church was then presented in a formal man-
 ner in a speech to which the Bishops made a reply.
 Afterwards there was a very handsome entertain-
 ment in the noble hall of Peter College, and over
 the principal table in gilt letters was the in-
 scription "Ecclesia Americana". In the speeches
 delivered on the occasion frequent allusions were
 made to our Church which were always received
 with a most hearty welcome. Upon the whole

This Venerable University has given as strong a demonstration as could well be devised of her affection for the daughter Church in the far west.

But dear Bishop, I must not longer trespass upon you. Further and more minute accounts will doubtless be given by the Bishops. This I believe you will not be displeas'd at receiving from your old friend. You have been most kindly inquired after by many persons who knew you personally when here or by reputation since. The venerable Dr McBride the Principal of Magdalen Hall inquired about you particularly; and I was rejoic'd to be able to give him such good accounts of you as we received from Bishop McCloskey. As Dr McCloskey & I walked about Oxford we talked of you, and your noble efforts in the West. It seem'd quite an appropriate topic of conversation, while we were looking at the magnificent the stacks of this glorious University, to dwell in anticipation upon what might in future ages be erected upon the broad and solid foundation you are & have been laying, and all both here and there to extend the knowledge and promote the glory of the Triune God whom we worship, and to show we can render back only his own free gifts. Would that we may all serve and adore Him more & more. I am deeply grateful that He has permitted me, unworthy as I am, to see what I have seen & to hear what I have heard. But nothing that I have seen or heard has in the least diminished my love of my own land & my own beloved Church you & rather I love them the more, I covet for them nothing of the wealth & splendour I see about me, but rejoice in their simplicity, & can say from my heart the lines have fallen to me in pleasant places. God of his mercy grant that my most affectionate love in Christ
may be united to the honour of his holy name. Your old friend
and Bishop's
one in Wainwright