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Salmon Portland Chase

Undergraduate and Pedagogue

By ARTHUR MEIER SCHLESINGER
Ohio State University



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SALMON PORTLAND CHASE.

UNDERGRADUATE AND PEDAGOGUE.

BY ARTHUR MEIER SCHLESINGER, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY.

Salmon Portland Chase was a significant member of that group of political radicals who plunged the nation into civil convulsions by their accession to governmental power in the late '50's. Much has been written of Chase, the anti-slavery lawyer, the organizer of the Liberty party, the war financier, the chief justice; but of Chase, the youth, the college student, the school teacher, little has been said. Yet these plastic years were the most critical ones of his life; they were the years in which he developed the mental habits and human contacts which were profoundly to influence his later career.

The letters of Chase to his college friend Thomas Sparhawk, which have recently been acquired by the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, are chiefly valuable for the insight one may acquire of Chase in this formative period. The first group of seven letters were written while Chase was an undergraduate at Dartmouth College. Marked by college-boy pleasantries the correspondence is wholesome and hearty and innocent of subtlety; it also affords glimpses of the deeply religious strain which influenced Chase's maturer years. From a different point of view these letters are instructive for the sidelights they throw upon student life in the '20's in an American college and upon the difficulties which lay in ambush for the district school teacher. In the second series of letters Chase had removed to Washington, there to earn a livelihood while preparing himself for his life work. The last letter of this group was written from Cincinnati where Chase was beginning to take the first venturesome steps in a career which was to shed much honor on himself and his adopted state. Of these later letters more will be said presently. The two groups of letters now appear in print for the first time.

I.

Salmon P. Chase was born on January 13, 1808, in Cornish, New Hampshire. When Salmon was a lad of seven the Chase family removed to Keene and there his father died a year or so later leaving to his mother a slender property and ten children. The boy's schooling began about this time: he received fragmentary instruction in a young ladies' school, in two district schools at Keene, and in a private school at Windsor, Vt., and later he studied Greek under a tutor at Keene. In after years he remarked of his schooling at Windsor: "I was counted quite a prodigy; but I see now that thorough instruction and acquisition of one quarter would have been much better than superficial coursing through the whole."¹

Early in 1820 Chase felt the first tug of that attraction which was finally to draw him permanently to Ohio. His uncle, Bishop Philander Chase, of Worthington, offered to take the lad under his tutelage, an invitation which his mother gladly embraced. By flatboat, carriage and steamboat he journeyed to Cleveland; and then by horseback, employing the familiar frontier practice of "ride and tie," he arrived at his destination in Worthington sometime in June, 1820. Chase's sojourn in Worthington left him with few pleasant memories. The bishop was an extremely good man, head of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Ohio, but a stern moral guardian and exacting taskmaster. The lad received some desultory instruction in a brick school-house on the west side of the town square, and read theological works under the bishop's direction—hardy diet for a boy of twelve! "Out of school," he related in after years, "I did chores; took grain to the mill and brought back meal or flour; milked the cows; drove them to and from pasture; took wool to the carding factory over on the Scioto, an important journey to me; built fires and brought in wood in the winter time; helped gather sugar water and make sugar when winter first

¹ Extract from a letter written to J. T. Trowbridge to assist him in preparing the biographical sketch entitled *The Ferry Boy and the Financier*. Quoted in Robert B. Warden's *An Account of the Private Life and Public Services of Salmon Portland Chase* (Cincinnati 1874), 60.

turned to spring; helped plant and sow in the later spring. In most of whatever a boy could do on a farm I did a little."²

In 1822 Bishop Chase, whose income from the church was extremely meager, was offered the presidency of Cincinnati College. Thence he removed with his family and nephew in November of that year. Cincinnati College was an institution in which "the requirements of scholarship was [sic] by no means exacting," as Chase himself testified in later years.³ Entering the college as a Freshman he soon was able to advance himself to Sophomore standing by a little extra study.

His description of Cincinnati during the period of his first residence in that city is of interest in view of the account that he gives of the city in a letter to Sparhawk on his return there as a fledgling lawyer in 1830: "Cincinnati was then a comparatively small town. From Fifth Street north, there were few buildings. The Court-house had been removed from its original location in the square on which the college stood to the center of a lot of ground on Main Street—the same lot on which the existing Court-house stands. Mr. Este, a prominent lawyer, had built a residence not far from the Court-house. I remember no other building of consequence north of Fifth Street. A trade had sprung up on the river; but there was little, comparatively, in the interior. The river was a wonder to me; especially when swollen by the spring flood; and a still greater wonder were the steamboats—inconsiderable crafts, doubtless, but to me monsters."⁴

Bishop Chase did not long remain content with his new honors and within less than a year resigned his position and determined to go to England to seek aid for the establishment of a theological seminary. Salmon accompanied the Chase family on their journey eastward and in the autumn of 1823 arrived at the home in Keene from which he had departed some three years earlier. His college education being as yet incomplete, it was decided in family council that he should renew his studies at Dartmouth College with such partial support as he might effect

² Letter to Trowbridge; *ibid.*, 83.

³ Letter to Trowbridge; *ibid.*, 93.

⁴ Letter to Trowbridge; *ibid.*, 96.

through school-teaching and such assistance as his mother might spare from her scanty means.

A few months after his return he secured a position as master of a school in a district of the adjoining town of Roxbury; but his employment ended abruptly within less than a fortnight when one of the bullies of the school, actually older than the boy-teacher, complained to the school committee that he had been suppressed too vigorously by the master! Early in the spring Chase attended the academy at Royalton, Vt., in order to prepare for the admission examination at Dartmouth during the approaching commencement, for it was his intention to enter as a Junior. This process proved to be a pleasant enough experience inasmuch as Chase did not regard it very seriously and diluted his studies with liberal doses of social intermingling.

When the critical day for the examination arrived, he went to Hanover and, as he related many years later, "I * * * found the professors much engaged. I was sent from one to another, questioned a little—luckily for me with no great severity—and was admitted. One of the questions by the learned professor of mathematics amused me. He undertook to fathom my geographical attainments, and asked: 'Where do the Hottentots live?' I was tempted to answer, 'In Hanover,' but prudence restrained me."⁵ Now came several weeks of vacation following the Dartmouth commencement; and then Chase returned to Hanover a Junior in fact.

"While rooming in the college," Chase declared in reminiscence, "I boarded, for the greater part of the time, in club—that is to say, a number of the students organized themselves into an association; rented a room; provided food and attendance through a committee, and assessed the expense on the association. If any one desired board without being a member of the association, he could have it on paying an established weekly rate; and there were a number who did so. I was one."⁶

During the winter which followed his first term in Dartmouth he again engaged to teach a district school, this time at

⁵ Letter to Trowbridge; *ibid.*, 112.

⁶ Letter to Trowbridge; *ibid.*, 112.

Reading, and he was able to return to college with the earnings of seven or eight weeks' teaching. Of this venture in "school-keeping" he gives a highly colored account in one of his letters to Sparhawk. The letters that are printed below furnish an excellent running account of the remainder of Chase's course in Dartmouth.

HANOVER, NOV. 29. 1825.

DEAR TOM,

Why have you not written to me before now? I have been expecting a letter some time and have at last concluded that the reason you have not written is that you did not know where to direct. The Government were exceedingly wroth at your manner of departure. I understand that the President⁷ told Elliott that as "you had gone off without liberty you might get back as you could." Which being interpreted signifies that you will have, to pay two dollars fine & write a confession perhaps into the bargain on your return. I hope however that the latter will not be required for I know that if you do not think you have done wrong you will never write a confession. Folsom⁸ has got the school at Haverhill. Swasey recieved a letter stating that Holmes might have it, but Holmes was already elsewhere engaged. Swasey then engaged the school for Folsom altho' he knew that I expected and was waiting for it. I recieved a letter from Swasey stating that he was sorry I could not have the school for it was engaged to Folsom, when he knew that he had engaged it for him at the same time that I was expecting it. I don't think that Swasey has acted very honourably in this matter. I care not much about the *school* as I shall spend my vacation more pleasantly without it than with, but it is the disposition which S——— has manifested. I do not now expect to keep school this winter; so you may for the present at least direct your letters to old Dartmouth.

I recieved a letter from Punchard yesterday—he wrote in fine spirits and appears to enjoy himself very much at home. I will extract one sentence for your perusal. "Tom Sparhawk is the last person I should have thought of taking a school—If he don't cry heu miserable! I shall lose my guess." What think you Tom? Shall you persevere unto the end in school-keeping? Or shall you become tired of the business and take French leave of your school before it is half through? I am glad your father likes my profile but am greatly afraid if he should ever happen to see me he would say that there is very little resemblance between it & the original. *Creeping Moses* left the plain soon after you went away. He was in my room for about 6 hours every day from the time he took those likenesses till he went. Folks say that

⁷ The Rev. Bennett Tyler was president of Dartmouth College from 1822 to 1828.

⁸ Nathaniel Folsom was in later years to occupy a chair in Meadville Theological Seminary, Pa.

the one which was drawn for you resembles you very much. I will now mention a circumstance which *Dan* requested me to write to you about lest I should forget it. Ward says that Kent never bought any wood of him for you—that he had promised Gen. Poole some wood and drew that half-cord for him. I heard Ward say this so that if Dan did not tell Ward what to say, you must have been in the wrong respecting Dan's conduct in this matter. He says he was very much hurt by your suspicions and wished me to tell you how matters really were. I have told you what Ward said and you must draw your own conclusion. Paine had a letter last Saturday from Concord stating that the school there was engaged to Robinson, that graduated last commencement. Torry goes next Friday and the rest of us will probably stay on the rest of the term. Monsieur's school has closed, but he has engaged to take another in the Spring. All his scholars are much pleased with him I believe. For my part I have not obtained much good from it, but it was my own fault I suppose.

Your classmate Stone has commenced his school in Keene has about forty noisy, dirty, ragged young idiot[s] to teach. There was a grand party at Mrs. Woodward's a few evenings since—the gentlemen were the Rev. Mr. Stone, Tutors Aiken & Carlton, Junior Alvord, Sophomores Stone and Woodward & George Wood. Ladies I do not know who or what they are.

Almost all our class have cleared out, and the rest are soon going, except Kendrich, Kimball, Cilley & *Myself*. We are studying Butler^o yet, but shall soon commence Paleys Evidences.

As to that important & dignified personage ———i———; he is very well tho' somewhat lasy—studies a little—reads a little more and scribbles more still, and wishes very much, as he says, to hear from his chum Tom.

Tom Paine domiciliates with me at present. He has lived with me since he was taken sick with a violent cold arising from the influence of *Conic Sections*. We had an excellent thanksgiving dinner. Turkey, plumpudding, pies mince, squash & pumpkin, apples and wine, &c &c &c. If you should happen to meet with any body who knows me, present my respects to them. I am excessively tired, having written one long letter before to-day. Write soon—Good-bye.

Yours Affectionately

DEAR TOM,

DART COLL., Dec. 14. 1825.

I recieved your very entertaining letter of the 21st inst with much pleasure. You say I may be thankful for my disappointment respecting

^o Joseph Butler's well known work, *The Analogy of Religion, Natural and Revealed, to the Course and Constitution of Nature*, published originally in 1736.

the school. I am not by any means sorry that I did not obtain it, tho I do not by any means like the way in which I lost it. I regret that you are not better pleased with your school than your letter intimates. I never thought it would agree with you very well—you are not as patient as Job I can tell you, without fear of contradiction. I remember that in the school where I kept last winter¹⁰ the noise would sometimes almost drive me distracted. In respect to the Govt., their bark is *always* worse than their bite, tho they can bite keenly enough too upon occasion. Witness George's case—bow wow.¹¹ You will be called upon for the fine of course. You knew so much when you left Hanover. I hope that they will exact nothing further.—Old Tom has recovered from the cold which so severely afflicted him. N. B. The Junior class have finished Conic Sections. Tom, Cilley and *Ego* are all that are left in our family. Cleveland left this morning.¹² I have begun to like C—— quite well—many of the stories by which I was prejudiced against him I have found to be false and the others highly exaggerated. I have learnt a lesson from this which I hope I shall not soon forget, that is not to judge decidedly upon slight grounds.

Creeping Moses has pulled up stakes and cleared to my great satisfaction and relief. I was always willing to endure a reasonable share of his company, but to be favoured with it all the time was a favour of which I felt myself extremely unworthy, and unwilling that my perturbation should be visible I blew out the light, covered up the fire and hid my blushing face under the blankets. I was not under the necessity of resorting to the last summary expedient which you mentioned in order to convince him of my modesty.

Your profile is not such a *very* bad looking object after all. Old Bison says it looks exactly like you when you are about to say something witty. So think of something *darn'd cute* and look in the glass and if you don't see something there that will make you laugh I shall be Content to be set down for a false prophet.

"I wonder if I should have been honoured with an invitation from the Miss woodward's"—I am sure I can't tell & am equally sure

¹⁰ At Reading.

¹¹ This reference is to a difficulty which Chase's friend George Pinchard got into with the college authorities the preceding summer. Pinchard was suspended for some offense of which Chase believed him to be innocent. Chase protested to President Tyler; and when his protest availed nothing, he quit college for the period of his friend's suspension. In speaking of this episode in a letter to Trowbridge, Chase remarked in after years: "I could not help feeling that I had done right in standing by my friend; but I was sorry that I had been obliged to leave college." Pinchard later became a minister in Boston. Warden, S. P. Chase, 115-116.

¹² After graduating from Dartmouth in 1827 Charles Dexter Cleveland, here referred to, became professor of Latin and Greek in Dickinson College and later in New York University. He wrote a number of critical works on modern and classical literature.

that you would not have accepted it if you had. I see no reason why you should wonder that they had no more gentlemen. They had all that they knew from the three lower classes that would go and they have a moral antipathy to our class you know because we come [?] after Mr. Henry and other reasons too insignificant to mention. There has been a READING CIRCLE (Excuse my printing Tom I pray thee) established at Hanover—the Gentlemen Tommy Aiken & Carlton read and the ladies correct any mistakes they may happen to observe. Williamine²³ belongs to it and has made marvellous improvement in consequence thereof: Insomuch that now I scarcely dare say Boo to her (Or as the old saying goes Say Boo to a goose) for fear that I shall be told that it is not *good English!* She has moreover acquired a number of smooth, elegant, pure, harmonious *clear English* sayings, *par exemple* “You lie” “Shoot your Granny” “Awful crittur” and I don’t know how many others equipollent and tantamount to that. You see hereby what rapid strides Hanover is taking in the march of improvement. Par example puts me in mind of Monsieur. I remembered you to him, tho’ without your orders for I suppose that you would have told me to had you thought of it. He has left Hanover this morning for Woodstock, where he proposes instructing a school this winter. He told me to remember him affectionately to you.

I am glad that your cousin remembers me. I thought I should like him very much upon acquaintance—as it was I feel a great respect for him. Present my respects to him if you please. I hardly think it will be possible for me to be in Portsmouth this winter; if it is possible however I will. Dan brought me your letter and wished to read it. I told him I had no objections. He read it & said that he was very glad you had altered your opinion of him. He did not comprehend the import of the particle Sed [?] I guess. Cilley tells me that he shall see you in the course of a fortnight or three weeks & sends a packet of Love to you. Goodbye.

YOUR SINCERE FRIEND

P. S. You must answer this so that I may receive your letter within eight or ten days for after that time I scarcely know where I shall be for two or three weeks. I have written this just as I should talk. Excuse all faults.

READING VT. Feby. 6. 1826.

DEAR TOM:

I regret very much that you have not thought fit to answer my last letter. I expected that you would direct to Hanover and that it would be forwarded to me in case I should not be there. But I suppose that you have good reasons for it as I am not willing to suspect the “s

²³ Daughter of General Poole, already referred to by Chase.

cerity" of your friendship. Since my last to you many *important* events have taken place, such as old Bison's falling in love for the 99th time. The present object of his admiration is a Miss Trumbull from Hartford, Conn. But as he is a sworn squire of dames I suppose that his present will last no longer than his former flames. Many other *equally* important events have transpired too *tedious* to mention. Harriet Woodward has been paying attentions to a medical student but has been rejected! At least so says General Report who you know is not a man of unquestioned veracity. I was up at H——¹⁴ a few days since. Saw Mrs. Poole and Williamine—all well. W—— had been to a ball at Windsor and at one in Woodstock so she had plenty to talk of during the short time I was there. Her tongue went as smooth as butter and as swift as Eclipse. I did not see any of your particular acquaintances while there. Since the vacation commenced I have been at Keene where I staid between three or four weeks. Charles Olcott is there—rather more steady than he has been tho' it can scarce be hoped that he will ever entirely free himself from his unhappy habit of intemperance. I am very sorry for him for setting aside that blot upon his character. There are few who are more highly gifted with every quality that excites esteem and insures respect. I came to this place about two weeks since. I have a sister here who is married to the physician of the place.¹⁵ My Mother intends residing here for the future; as she has no children who are not either at school at a distance or married or otherwise engaged. It is a gloomy and unsocial place and were it not that my sister is here I should hardly think my Mother could endure the change; but she is satisfied and of course I am. I shall be as much at liberty as formerly and the change cannot materially affect me, as I am scarcely ever at home for a month together. How prospers your school! I hope you meet with no difficulty in the management of the *blacks* which are entrusted to you to shape out after a workmanlike manner. Avery as I understand has bidden farewell to his school in Sharon. Your *friend* Elliott is now engaged in his third. Russell does very well however. Hutchins I understand teaches the young idea how to *shoot* with great accuracy. I saw Torry in Windsor a few days since. He succeeded well I beleive in his school and is now enjoying himself at home. I think you made a great mistake when you took so *long* a school. You must be fairly tired out long before this. I can well sympathise with you for it was only 12 months since I was engaged in the same *horrid* delightful employment. I counted the hours, minutes and even seconds with the utmost impatience and greatly did I rejoice when the hour came when I could say to myself "*I am free.*" You however are differently situated from what I was. You have pleasant society to console you for the vexations you experience in your school; but to me my

¹⁴ Hanover.

¹⁵ Jane Chase, the wife of Dr. Skinner.

pleasantest hours were often those which I spent in schoolroom; the people among whom I was cast were almost savages,—one or two families alone could pretend to common decency. I was not starved however—the best bohea the greasiest nutcake and largest piece of pie which would rival in the compactness of formation and darkness of hue the darkest ebony was always reserved for the “*master*”. However I made shift to live it thro’ and tho’t at the close of the period for which I was engaged that I would sooner undertake to teach the wild Indians, than again attempt to instruct *savages* of our enlightened land.

I have trespassed thus long upon your patience with an account of my school merely because I had nothing else to say which I thought might be interesting to you. Do you ever hear from Punchard? I have not heard a syllable from him scarcely since the vacation commenced. Shall you return to H—— at the commencement of the term? If you do not I wish you would send me an immediate answer to this. Be sure to come as quick as you finish your school for our room is all too large to be filled by one person.

Very affectionately
YOUR FRIEND

DEAR TOM,

I wrote this letter in Reading Vermont state and intended to have sent it to you before this time but as this is an *out-of-the-way* place where the mail seldom comes, I have not sent it till this present time.¹⁶ George Punchard is here—you cannot think how glad we all were to see him. He has grown fat and is hearty as a buck. Torrey & Creeping Moses & Cleveland are all here. I am sorry to find that Cleveland is charged with such heavy accusations as he is said to be for I had begun to like him quite well. C—— Moses rooms in Brown Hall. [Three words illegible.] Do Come as soon as you Can. Don’t stay to finish your school if it will keep you long. At all events *write immediately*. Remember me to your cousin. Goodbye and believe me ever

Ceteris equalibus

Your’s Affectionately

HANOVER, March 12th 1826.

MY DEAR TOM,

I have taken the liberty of writing to you at this time in order to request you to purchase me a handsome English watch in Concord the price of which I do not wish to exceed 16 dolls. I want to have as small a one as possible, at least as small as yours and warranted for one year. You *may* get it as much cheaper than 16 dollars as you can!

A révil is commenced here and probably will make sweeping work. The President goes round and exhorts every one who has expressed any concern.

¹⁶ Postmarked at Hanover, February 20.

Prof. Shurtliff as you have probably seen by the papers has lost his wife.¹⁷ George Punchard has just left my room. He is very well and so is old Tom and Gates. Hutchins lately recd. a letter from you. I thought it somewhat queer that you did not write to me at the same time.—What's to pay. Excuse blots and handwriting on account of my pen.

Your's affectionately

P. S. I do not write at any great length as you will come on so soon. Pay for the watch and I will hand you the money upon your arrival. If there are no English ones of the kind I wish you to get for me a small French one to open on the back and front, worked on the outside, warranted one year, price not exceed 12 dollars. I care very little which of this you get me and should if any thing prefer the last.

HANOVER March 16 1826

MY DEAR TOM.

I recd. with much pleasure your very kind letter of the 27th ult. not however 'till the 11th of this month. Before recieving it I had written a short letter to you directed to Concord, which you probably will not receive 'till on your way here if then. It is of no manner of Consequence whether you do or no as there is no information in that which will not be contained in this.

I have sold my old watch and wish to procure a new one. If you should be able to obtain me an English one in Portsmouth of the same sise, or *smaller* than yours, warranted for time one year or a French one, worked on the outside, to open both on the front and back, small in sise, & warranted for time one year, I should be glad if you would procure it for me and I will pay you immediately upon your return. I should not wish the English watch to cost over 16 dolls. and the French one not over 12 dolls. and you *may* get either as much *cheaper as possible!* I have a small bill at Brown,¹⁸ which if you would pay I would settle with you. The amount of the bill is \$5.68. You remember you took off my Burns to have it bound. If it is already bound and has cost more than 2.00 for the binding I should wish you to procure another set if possible at about 3.50 well bound; if not I should wish you to have them bound as well as you can for .50 cents a volume. Pardon me for troubling you so much about my matters.—We will now if you please say something about yours. Are you indispensably engaged in your school for 3 weeks longer? If not and you have any wish to be restored to Coll. upon easy terms I would advise you to return imme-

¹⁷ Roswell Shurtliff was the professor of theology at this time. For a sketch of his life, see B. P. Smith, *The History of Dartmouth College* (Boston, 1878), 228-240.

¹⁸ A tailor.

diately in the very *next mail* and be present at the examination of your class. If you do this I think you will be readmitted upon easy terms, if not you will be obliged to undergo a private examination, which is a thing somewhat to be dreaded if as you say, you have not attended much to your classical studies. Besides I have a more selfish motive; I want you as a Room-Mate, to help me fetch wood, draw water, &c., &c. Do Come, and that not quickly merely but immediately. Your examination will be upon Thursday next week and it will be your interest to be present at it. Come therefore without hesitation directly.

A revival has commenced here. I was not taught to believe much in the efficacy of such things but I do not not [sic] know enough concerning their effects to oppose them.¹⁹ I so wish to comply with the advice of Gameliel to the Jewish Sanhedrim, "Refrain from these men &c."²⁰ Charles Thompson has experienced as he says a change of heart — that is — he has become religious. Ned Avery is said to be under serious impressions and so is Gates Cilley, and some others of your acquaintance. Every one appears sober. Compared to last fall the College seems very sober this Spring I assure you. In the chapel this evening you might have heard a pin drop so attentive and silent were the students. The revival commenced among the young ladies, all of whom without exception have become seriously disposed. The president is indefatigable in his labours to promote it's spread and he is seconded tho' with less ardour by the other officers of college.

George is well and studies quite hard this term. In fact I never knew a time when he appeared to so good advantage in the class as he does at present. Old Tom is hearty as usual; — he and I have had a slight falling-out tho' I hope no lasting ill-will will arise from it; for if there be one whose talents I admire, or whose honour I respect, or whose good opinion I should wish to secure in the Junior Class, that one is George Paine. I would not crouch however to purchase even his good opinion.

Your Society are about I believe to make some alterations in the library; — what they are I have not been able exactly to learn. Dane Smith of the freshman class has been considerably with me this term, and I think him a very fine fellow, tho' take the class as a body and I doubt whether it would be possible, to find a poorer set of intellects in any college in America.

¹⁹ Chase had been baptized and confirmed a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. A deeply religious note dominated his entire life, being the result in part, no doubt, of the teachings of his devoted mother and of the reading which he did under Bishop Chase's supervision in Worthington. His college mate Nathaniel Folsom believed that the revival left an ineradicable impress on Chase's later career. See *ibid.*, 134-139.

²⁰ Acts, v, 38.

Come immediately or answer this in less than no time.

Good-bye. *Your's Affectionately.*

N. B. "I do not doubt the sincerity of your friendship."

ROYALTON April 9 1826.

Tuesday.

MY DEAR TOM,

When I left H—— in my hurry I forgot to bring with me my pencil case, my penknife, and the little account book all which you will find in the drawer of my table and which I should be glad to have you send by the afternoon stage of tomorrow, as likewise a packet of tracts which I expect Caleb Kimball will give you. Will you do me the favour to hand the inclosed immediately to him? [Written in later.] I do not inclose any thing as you will percieve for him.

I arrived here after a pleasant tho slow ride safe and sound, wind & limb and had the satisfaction of finding all my friends well. I inclose to you the amount of my debt 5 dollars.

Do not my dear Tom forget the promise which you made me at parting and remember the day is fast approaching when you will be called to account for the faithful fulfilment of it. Do not think me officiously impertinent in thus reminding you of an acknowledged duty but attribute it to the real cause anxiety for your welfare. May he who alone is able give you strength to fulfil your resolution.

Good-bye do not neglect writing soon to

Your Sincerely Aff. Friend

P. S. Love to George, Tom, Gates & Hutch. Send likewise my razor and strop—April 12. I inclose your money \$5—Stage-fee in deduction 4.00.

ROYALTON May 15th 1826.

MY DEAR TOM,

I recieved your epistle a few moments since & answer it immediately. I was glad and sorry upon your letter. Glad that the work which I verily believe to be that of the Spirit of God continues to proceed in Hanover. Sorry that your manner of mentioning it seemed to imply doubt if not incredulity. No doubt you may serve the Lord in your studies as acceptably as in other ways if you study from right motives, but if you do not you must be conscious of something wrong. "Without Holiness no man shall see the Lord," and the question is therefore a very important one. Are we in any degree holy? Has the Holy Spirit renewed our corrupt hearts? I pray (and I hope I pray sincerely) that you may be enabled to give an affirmative answer to these questions. "Seek you *first* the Kingdom of Heaven and all other things shall be

added unto you." These are the words of God Himself who *cannot* be deceived and who *will* not be mocked. I leave you to make their application.

I thank you sincerely for the trouble you have taken in sending my things. Whence came the tracts and why did you not send my pen-knife? Glad that the money went safe. Answer this if you please this week. Love to all.

Your aff Friend.

II.

After graduation at Dartmouth, where, it is worthy of note, Chase was honored by election to the Phi Beta Kappa Society, he planned to go south and teach for a time preparatory to the selection of a profession. He strongly inclined at this time to enter the ministry. At Philadelphia, on his journey southward, he came upon his uncle Bishop Chase, whose mission to England had proved successful and who was devoting his energies now to the building up of the Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church, later called Kenyon College. Young Chase sought openings for his school at Swedesboro, N. J., and at Frederick City, Md., but the conditions were not favorable for his venture.

He now journeyed on to Washington, where he had letters to the Reverend Dr. Hawley and the Reverend Mr. Allen and where his uncle Dudley Chase, United States Senator from Vermont, spent a portion of each year on his official duties. These gentlemen were not able to assist him materially at the outset except through the prestige afforded by the use of their names. With considerable diffidence Chase announced his project to the public in the following advertisement in *The National Intelligencer*, December 23, 1826:

SELECT CLASSICAL SCHOOL

The subscriber intends opening a Select Classical School, in the Western part of the City, to commence on the second Monday in January. His number of pupils will be limited to twenty, which will enable him to devote a much larger portion of his time and attention than ordinary to each individual student. Instruction will be given in all the studies preparatory to entering College, or, if desired, in any of

I am glad I succeeded in describing the Wirt family so as to excite your admiration. They well deserve it and perhaps at some future time I may endeavor to increase it.—Not a word against her whom you characterize as my *quondam Dulcinea*. I have no such attachment but I tell you in frankness that did I permit myself to think of these things I know no one to whom I would sooner offer heart and hand. But I hold it the merest folly in a young man, not possessed of an independent fortune, who is pursuing the study of law or Medicine to clog his free steps by incumbrances like these. By the way what has become of Miss Hall, *your quondam Dulcinea* the fame of which attachment reached even the Federal City and excited the attention of a magistrate thereof.—My opinion of a certain one of whom I was so chivalrous a defender a year since is slightly changed and may change farther. Would that *all interested now* knew all the circumstances. Do any of your class come southward this fall. I should be glad to see any body from Old Dart. Remember me to your excellent Father and the family and believe me now as ever

Your Faithfully attached friend

Write soon & I will forgive the last—

WASHINGTON Nov. 10. 1828.

MY DEAR TOM,

Your kind letter of the 27th ult was received, as all your letters are with great pleasure and read even with more than usual interest. I am glad to hear you have formed so high an opinion of my cousin. I have ever heard her spoken of in terms of admiration by those who have had the good fortune to know her. I have never seen her but once and then, so brief was my visit that I do not now remember enough of her form or feature to be able to recognize her should we meet again. She has never visited her paternal relations and appears to have imbibed a prejudice against them, whether justly or not it is not for me to say. This prejudice, I presume, is in no degree removed as I gather from your letter that she did not visit them while on her

upon his great knowledge, which has as fatal an effect upon men's reputation as poverty; for as it was said, the poor man saved the city, and the poor man's labour was forgot; so here we see, the modest man built the city, and the modest man's skill was unknown. Thus we see every man is the maker of his own fortune; and what is very odd to consider, he must in some measure be the trumpet of his fame: not that men are to be tolerated who directly praise themselves, but they are to be endowed with a sort of defensive eloquence, by which they shall be always capable of expressing the rules and arts by which they govern themselves." "Nestor" is, of course, another name for the famous Sir Christopher Wren, builder of St. Paul's Cathedral and many other edifices. I am indebted to Professor Milton Percival of the Ohio State University for this reference.

visit to the country last summer. I imagine her prejudice arises from suspicion that they would be influenced in their attentions to her by regard to her property; but I verily think she is mistaken in regard to most of them. As a family I do not think we have or deserve to have the reputation of loving money or the possession of money overmuch. Individuals among us, I doubt not, are open to this charge but it should be general. Now under the circumstances perhaps you will say I was foolish in making two attempts at distant intervals to remove or allay this feeling. I wrote to her once by mail while I was in College before I graduated. The letter was either not received or was not answered. Again I wrote last Spring by my Uncle⁴², who represents Vermont in the Senate. This letter too was not received or deemed unworthy of an answer. The remark which she made to you induces me to think it possible she did not receive them. I wish I could be informed as to this point as it would materially influence the estimate I should form of her character. Of course under existing circumstances you would not wish me to follow your advice. I will say however that were the case otherwise I should pursue the course you point out; for, aside from the hope of being able to do away the prejudice I have mentioned, it would give me great pleasure to correspond with a young lady such as I have ever heard that my cousin is.

You enquire if Emeline Webster is married. She is. I was present at the ceremony and spent a most disagreeable evening. Not that her presence rendered it disagreeable but the party was very large and I abhor these promiscuous gatherings. I think her husband is every way superior to Olcott and I hope that the connexion will be a happy one.

I am glad to hear that you have commenced your professional studies and I should think that Boston would afford ample means and opportunities for improvement. If I may be allowed to exercise again the privilege I have so often assumed I would say to you, place your mark high. Aim at the accomplishment of great things and do not permit the allurements of pleasure or the fascinations of society, or the difficulties of study, to divert or deter you from a course steadily and rapidly onward. Individuals of the profession you have chosen have been eminent in all science and familiar with all literature. Many of them have been benefactors of mankind—men of enlarged liberal views whose souls have been too lofty to regard minute selfish interest in their generous ardor to ameliorate the condition of man. You, my dear friend, do not intend to live for yourself alone—you would desire that your name if known at all might be known as the name of one who in passing thro' life communicated, like a fertilizing stream, beauty and strength to all around. Take then as your examples the eminent of your profession and resolve to *surpass* them. It may be done. In-

⁴²Dudley Chase, United States Senator from Vermont, 1813-1817 and 1825-1831.

dustry and a judicious application of time effects wonders. No man was ever great—truly great—without them, and with them any one not unfitted by providence, may excel. I have perhaps singular views of life. Certain it is that I regard this world not as a place of leisure—not as a place of selfish exertion, but as a vast theatre upon which each man has a part allotted to him to perform and duties to discharge which connect him closely with his fellowman. I confess I desire to be distinguished but I desire more to be useful and were the choice of exalted honour and undying fame or extensive tho humble usefulness offered to me I do not think I should hesitate a moment in my choice of the latter. And I do not regard myself as at liberty to make any disposition of my time that may suit my inclination but I esteem it as a sacred trust committed to me by my God every moment of which ought to be devoted to a diligent preparation to discharge any duties which He may call me to perform. Feeling thus myself you will excuse me if my interest in the welfare of a dear friend should prompt me to be too liberal of my counsel or too urgent in my exhortations.

You have ere this learned the result of the Presidential contest. The People have made choice of King Dragon and we must be content to abide the consequences. If I do not mistake the signs of the times you and I will live to see this Union dissolved & I do not know that New England has much reason to deprecate such an event. The proceedings at the South during the last summer, the measures adopted as preparatory, by the South Carolina delegation in Congress, last winter, and the recent election of an ignoramus, a rash, violent military chief to the highest civil office are fearful omens of approaching convulsions. It is my hope that Genl. Jackson will disappoint the fears of his opponents but I hope with much apprehension. Time however will shew and till then I trust the People of the North will hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

My life moves on in one unvaried course which will not probably be materially altered till I commence the practice of my profession. It is probable that Mr. Wirt will remove to New York next summer. In that event I shall, if I can so arrange matters, accompany him and continue my studies under his direction and finally settle in some part of that state if not in the city. If any of my acquaintances are in Boston remember me to them and do not forget to evince your sense of my punctuality by imitation.

Your sincere & Affectionate friend

Did E. see my letter to you?

WASHINGTON April 20. 1829⁴³

MY DEAR SPARHAWK,

You say well that the dear people, are happy in having such faithful sentries upon the watchtowers of liberty. Thrice happy say I, "terque quatuorque beata" is *Freedom* in the possession of so chivalrous and *undaunted* an *advocate* as Isaac Hill whilom editor of the New Hampshire patriot and now reposing himself after the hard fought battle in the chair of the second Comptroller under the glorious administration of the greatest, wisest virtuousest of men, bravest of heroes and most profound of Presidents, Gen. Andrew Jackson, the Defender of New-Orleans, the farmer of Tennessee! This is a bright era in the History of America. The golden age of *disinterested* patriotism has returned. Resuscitated Independence will date from this auspicious epoch her new birth. Hurra for Jackson! Let the air be rent with the deafning acclaim. Jackson & Reform Let the echoes repeat it till the sound die away among the murmurs of the mighty Pacific. Wake from the dead Shade of the gigantic Johnson! Behold a wonder under the sun and confess your ignorance of the signification of terms. Patriotism means selflove, violence means energy, cruelty magnanimity, and reform the removal of an honourable opponent and the substitution of a servile tool.

This administration was appropriately denominated some weeks since as "the millenium of minnows." It is so truly. From all quarters have applicants for office been flocking, of all kinds and conditions. Not long since I am told a man went to the Treasury Department and enquired "Where's the mon that makes the clerks?" *He* wanted an office. I know not if he was successful in his application. — But the auspicious star of *the little* shines not merely upon the Jackson party. Johnson Eaton, the brother of the younger Mrs. Adams is to be married next week to his sister's serving maid. This, as you may suppose, has not only given the gossips a subject but has occasioned a great deal of distress and discord in the family of Mr. Adams. "Ainsi va la monde." The society here is not sufficiently enlightened with the new doctrine to be willing to receive Mrs. Eaton into it's bosom. So they say Mr. Eaton must have a foreign embassy and exhibit his lovely *wife*, his *better half* as the representative of American ladies at an European court. It will be well if she does not come to fisticuffs with her Grace the Duchess or my lady, the Marchioness.

I thank you for the friendly interest you take in my future destinies and assure you that nothing but the impossibility of the thing prevents me from pursuing the course which you point out to me. You ask why I do not at once go to Baltimore. I answer because there is a rule of court which would prevent me from commencing practise until after the lapse of three years and I do not wish to wait so long. It is my intention now to go immediately upon the completion of my engage-

⁴³ Postmarked April 18.

ment here either to the western part of the state of New York or to Ohio or to Frederick in Md. The last of these schemes is the least likely to be adopted of the three. But my intention may be materially changed upon subsequent information. My plan of life, so far as I have formed any is this. To pursue the practice of my profession undeviatingly until I have accumulated a little—enough to render me independent of the world and then to run a political career. I think in this way I may be more extensively useful than in any other and therefore I wish to pursue this course. ✓ I will not tell you all my day-dreams of good effected through my instrumentality lest you should doubt the sanity of your friend. There is one subject however which engages (and naturally enough) many of my thoughts and that is the simplification and improvement of the law. I would wish to contribute my poor efforts to the accomplishment of this great work. I would desire to see all the dark and circuitous by paths which conduct to the sanctuary of justice converted into a broad and beaten highway. I would be glad to see the sun of Jurisprudence shining with unclouded effulgence upon all, the rich & the poor, the learned and the ignorant; not hidden by clouds or obscured by a disastrous eclipse as it now is, serving but to render the darkness in which we are involved, *felt*. I am sure that much may be done by zealous devotion to effect this object. And could I render such a service to my country I would not give the consciousness of having done so, for all the crowns which ever encircled a monarch's brow or for all the plaudits which were ever lavished upon a successful warrior. I know I am enthusiastic, but this enthusiasm, this far-reaching anticipation is the source of happiness to me, and I would not exchange it for the contented tranquillity of a more phlegmatic disposition. ✓

With regard to the Misses Wirt you are again mistaken. It *was* the engaged one who used to me the expressions I repeated to you and so your castle in the air must fall. They are all gone now; the two young ladies to Richmond and the rest of the family to Baltimore. I would (*I speak frankly*) I could cherish the anticipations to which you obviously allude. But it cannot be, says the stern voice of cold Reason, it cannot be. If I were a little more advanced in the world—even one short year it might be. But ignorant as I am of my future destinies, uncertain even as to the place where my lot may be cast, I feel it would be unjust to her to attempt to win her affections. And yet so strangely inconsistent is man with himself. I always forget all this when in her presence and half of my thoughts are employed upon this very subject & tho' Conviction continually extinguishes the taper of Hope, yet is it constantly relumed in my bosom. Now I have unfolded to you the precise nature of my feelings and have reposed in you a confidence which I know will be fully deserved.

I should be glad to hear of the fate of my letters to my cousin in your next, which I hope soon to receive. Remember me very respectfully

to your father and sister if she has not forgotten me and believe [me] ever

Your sincere & affectionate

Write me *in extenso* of your own affairs and plans in your next & thus countenance my *egotism*.

MY VERY DEAR FRIEND,

CITY OF WASHINGTON, Sept. 30, 1829.

It was my intention to have written you as soon as I had returned⁴⁴ but I found so many things to do that in the whirl of occupations the little moments and the greater hours have slipped almost imperceptibly away and the thing has not been done. You however who so often need forgiveness (pardon the reminiscence) will not be very immitigable in your resentment. I returned here without accident and with renovated health. The journey was performed somewhat more rapidly than I anticipated when with you I went to Salem the same day I left Concord with George Punchard whom I found or rather who found me at Andover. You know I went down with Ward. When I arrived I felt thoroughly fatigued and threw myself on Ward's bed to rest myself. While there Punchard happened to be passing by and seeing Ward's window opened he concluded that he had returned and stepped in to enquire the news from Hanover. He found me there quite unexpectedly and told me he was going to Salem. I immediately agreed to go with him and off we went. The next day I went to see my sister at Ipswich and returned, bid goodbye to our noble friend and his admirable family and went to Boston. Here I unluckily missed seeing Smith in consequence of an oversight on my part. I saw none of our acquaintances in Boston as it was too late when I arrived to seek them out that evening and the next day was Sunday. On Monday morning I was off — passed thro N. Y. the next day without stopping an instant — slept at Philadelphia and the next evg. at 8 o'clock was comfortably seated at Baltimore in the midst of my friends the Wirts. I remained in Baltimore till Saturday when I came here as a dog that is dragged back to a chain from which he has been temporarily freed. I always feel when I have been absent from the city a little while and pass by the Capitol on my return, a sort of involuntary sinking of the heart for which I cannot account unless it be that I detest the drudgery and thanklessness of school-keeping. Well it is a source of some consolation that I shall soon be released from it. I can *see thro'* as they say in the Western forests and I will strive to divert my mind from the gloom around me, from the rugged surface and tangled ways of the wood to yonder clear blue sky which I can just discern thro the interstices of the interlaced

⁴⁴ Chase had left Washington on July 31 for a visit with his mother and sister in New England. Incidentally he had spent a few days with Sparhawk in Concord, N. H.

boughs. And I am not sorry that I have been a pedagogue. It is good to have borne the yoke in one's youth. It is well to have made trial of this world. It is a test—a criterion of strength—energy—power. When I returned I found that the Secretary of War was likely to be involved in a disagreeable difficulty on account of his wife. A curious version of this affair has found it's way into the newspapers and has been published I perceive in the N. H. Journal in which statement there are not two grains of truth. It was written either by a dunce or a knave—either by some busy meddler who could not ascertain the true state of the case or by some designing fellow who wished for particular reason to impose a false statement on the public. I am inclined to think that the last supposition is nearest the truth. The true state or nearly a true state of the case is this. Sometime last March Mr. [J. M.] Campbell a clergyman of this city in a confidential conversation with Dr. [E. S.] Ely of Phila. a staunch adherent of Genl. Jackson mentioned some circumstances respecting the character of Mrs. Eaton when Mrs. Timberlake with a view that being repeated to Gen. J. by Dr. Ely they might prevent the appt. of Maj. Eaton as Secy. of War Dr Ely said nothing about them at the time. Maj. Eaton was appointed and here the matter rested for a time. Subsequently Dr. Ely finding that the character of the administration was suffering from the attempts made by the Genl. to obtrude this woman on Society wrote to him detailing to him these circumstances stating that he had recd. them from a clergyman but without mentioning his name. Genl. J. communicated the contents to the Secy. and Mrs. Eaton immediately departs for Phila. to demand the name of the audacious offender. It was given up and she returned. Mr. Campbell declared to Gen. J. the whole course he had taken and the motives by which he was influenced. *He approved of them but subsequently after conversing with E—— saw fit to recant his approval.* Various attempts were then made to intimidate Mr. C. and induce a recantation but in vain. Genl. J—— in the true spirit of the despotism which has marked his every exercise of power has withdrawn himself from Mr. C's church and Maj Eaton his worthy friend after having magnanimously threatened personal violence to a peaceful clergyman, says nothing about the matter at present. Mr. C. is absent from the city. I cannot tell what will be done when he returns. Such is an abridgment of the whole affair as I believe it stands.⁴⁵ My affectionate respects to your excellent father and mother. In a great hurry.

Your very aff. friend

⁴⁵Chase gives a more explicit account of this affair in his diary under date of September 5, 1829: "Mr. Campbell, a Presbyterian clergyman in Washington, had stated in confidence to Dr. Ely, of Philadelphia, with a view to prevent the appointment of Maj. Eaton to the Cabinet, that Mrs. E. had been delivered of a child when she was Mrs. Timberlake, supposed to be by Maj. E., and that various other reports, greatly prejudicial to the character of both, had been for some time in circula-

WASHINGTON Jany. 15. 1830.

MY DEAR SPARHAWK,

What apology shall I make for my long silence. Shall I tell you how often I have determined to write immediately and how often some duty seemingly more imperative in it's claims would drag me from this more pleasant one? Shall I tell how much I have to do? Shall I plead the harrassing anxiety which constantly accompanies indecision as to future residence—especially when the hour is nigh at hand when that die, so pregnant with good or evil, must be thrown? Will any or all of these apologies avail? If so then, my dear friend, you will not impute my silence to a wrong cause and of course will not retaliate upon me.

You mentioned in your last a dangerous illness of your excellent father. As I have since heard nothing from you I trust he is restored

tion. Dr. Ely had made no use of the information then but some time afterward wrote to the President, informing him of the circumstances, and giving Mr. Campbell's name as the author of the report. The President immediately sent for Mr. C., who confessed that he had made the statement to Dr. E., explained his motives, and showed his authority. The President was apparently contented. But, the next day, he had changed his mind, and called upon Mr. C. to deny his belief in the charge. Mr. C. replied that he could not—when the President became angry, and talked of a suit for slander. Mr. C. now thought it expedient to prepare for the worst, and with that view requested me to call with him at Mrs. Williams' to-day. I went and the old lady told us that she was a neighbor to Mrs. Timberlake, and that Mrs. O'Neale, the mother of Mrs. T., had told her that she had had twins in the absence of Mr. T. This was the amount of her statement, but from other sources Mr. C. gathered a mass of evidence sufficient, and more than sufficient, to establish every allegation he had made, not as of his own knowledge, but as resting upon the credit of a particular individual and upon the strength of common report. A few days afterward a conclave was held at the palace, for the extraordinary purpose of taking this affair into consideration.

"Nearly the whole Cabinet was present, and some extra counsclors summoned for the special occasion. These last were Dr. Ely and Mr. Auditor Lewis. Mr. C. was summoned to appear and answer for himself. I can not state the particulars as they transpired. I have now no note of the transaction, and the minutia have faded from my memory. However, the President became highly exasperated, and attributed the whole affair to the agency of Mr. Clay, and Mr. C. left the room indignant at the treatment he had received, and determined to publish the whole affair to the world. Dr. Ely followed him and entreated him to change his resolution. At last he consented. Many other incidents grew out of this. The ladies of Washington excluded Mrs. E. from their society, and so the matter still rests. Eaton has threatened personal violence to Mr. C., but will not probably execute his threat; and Mrs. E. called herself on Mr. C., and after alternate abuse and entreaty, screaming and fainting, finding the whole ineffectual, declared that his blood should be spilt for his audacity." Warden, S. P. Chase, 148.

As this extract indicates, the evidence of Mrs. Eaton's guilt was by no means conclusive. Professor J. S. Bassett, the most recent biographer of Jackson, presents a well-balanced account of this affair in his chapter on "The Eaton Malaria."

to his usual health. I can sympathize with you in the anxiety which you must have felt. I have so often and so keenly felt the want of paternal aid and guidance and from want we [are] often enabled to appreciate more truly than by possession, that I can do with more reality than most men. But long may you be spared the sad experience which has been mine. Long may your revered father enjoy the love and honour to which his many and lofty virtues so justly entitle him.

✓ Things here are in very much the same situation as when I wrote last. The political parties have not yet separated. Tho it is probable enough that e'er the session has closed Mr. Van Buren and Mr. Calhoun will be openly proclaimed by their respective adherents as candidates for the next Presidency. Of these two Mr. Van Buren is at present so far as can be judged by indications here is [sic] unquestionably the strongest. Mr. Calhoun, however is much the ablest man. Van Buren has never been conspicuous as the originator or constant advocate of any one great measure. The United States Bank which has saved the country from financial ruin, is the child of Mr. Calhoun. Mr. Van Buren has been a successful intriguer without ever manifesting any of those splendid mental endowments which constitute the great statesman.⁴⁰ Mr. Calhoun, of too lofty a spirit to stoop to the arts and chicanery of political tacticians, rests his high pretensions upon his unrivalled ability in affairs of state. And this is the true reason why he is comparatively weak. The day has past, I fear forever past in this country, when a man will be rated according to his intellectual strength, extensive experience or moral excellence. But my fear is mingled with hope. Amid the gloomy clouds which overhang our future destiny I sometimes think I can discover, faint revealings of the bow of promise. It has for some time been my opinion that a mighty moral revolution is taking place throughout our land. If it be so, then is the day at hand when this nation shall be as no nation hath been. The time approaches when the intellect of man, no longer confined by superstition or despotic will, shall expand over the whole range of knowledge; when improvement shall reach it's uttermost limit; and man, disenthralled from the bondage of error and the worse bondage of sin, shall be what his maker intended he should be the chief glory of all his works. Do not laugh at my enthusiasm but think of the subject and see if you do not arrive at the same result. I have not time or space now for the development of my own views of the whole matter but they appear to me to be reasonable. But whither have I been led? To go back I will say that while Mr. Calhoun & Van Buren are the only actors on the stage at present Mr. Clay's friends are neither asleep or unwatchful. Nor are they weak. They do not outnumber the united friends of the gentlemen I have named—but divided they would be stronger than either party. ✓

⁴⁰ Such are the mutations of politics that eighteen years later Chase supported Van Buren for president of the United States.

Now as to myself I am here thinking of my situation and trying to decide upon my future residence. It is my present opinion that I shall go to Cincinnati but I am uncertain as farther information may change my determination. At all events I shall remain here four or five weeks longer. I have relinquished the school to Smith and have been admitted to the Bar.⁴⁷ Smith is I believe well pleased with his situation. Tho there are some *désagémens* about it with which one cannot easily reconcile himself. Instructors here are not esteemed as they are at the North and no wonder for of all men assuming the duties of that relation I do not think a more miserable set could be selected than those who are located here. I do not associate with them and in fact tho I have been in the city for three years I am yet acquainted with but one teacher. How then can a man expect to be pleased when his *profession* ranks him with a degraded *caste*?

I shall be looking for a letter from you soon. Please remember me to all my friends in Boston. If you can find it convenient call soon at Mr. Lamb's, Winthrop Place, & see Mr. Elliott, a young gentleman who left this last Monday for Boston and who will remain there I suppose a *few* days. He is a fine fellow.

Your very affectionate friend

CINCINNATI OHIO June 12. 1830.

MY DEAR SPARHAWK.

You will be somewhat surprised to receive a letter from your old friend dated in this ultra-montane world and really I am a little surprised to find myself here a *practising attorney*, but as yet without practice except in the *moot-court*! I feel almost sorry that I ever left New England but upon the whole I do not know that I have found thus far

⁴⁷He was admitted to the bar in December, 1829, under circumstances which he describes as follows in a letter to Trowbridge: "Very seldom, I imagine, has any candidate for admission to the bar presented himself for examination with a slenderer stock of learning. I was examined in open court. The venerable and excellent Justice Cranch put the questions. I answered as well as I was able—how well or how ill I cannot say—but certainly, I think, not very well. Finally, the Judge asked me how long I had studied. I replied that, including the time employed in reading in college and the scraps devoted to legal reading before I regularly commenced the study, and the time since, I thought three years might be made up. The Judge smiled and said, 'We think, Mr. Chase, that you must study another year and present yourself again for examination.' 'Please your honors,' said I deprecatingly, 'I have made all my arrangements to go to the Western country and practise law.' The kind Judge yielded to this appeal, and turning to the clerk said, 'Swear in Mr. Chase.' Perhaps he would have been less facile if he had not known me personally and very well." Schuckers is authority for the statement that the law of Maryland made three years' study a prerequisite for admission to the bar of the state and holds that Judge Cranch's comments reflected in no way upon Chase's fitness for admission. Schuckers, S. P. Chase, 30.

much reason to regret that course. I have studied my profession *after a sort*: have been admitted to the Courts of the District and the Courts of Ohio: have made some acquaintance with the great men and have seen a little of the great world:—and now nearly four eventful years have elapsed since I took my sheep skin at Dartmouth (dear old Dartmouth!) and sallied forth to seek my fortune aet. 18 as they say upon the tombstones. Well and how should I have spent the time had New England still detained me with[in] her loved borders? Verily I cannot tell: but I see no great reason to suppose that I should have been much better or wiser or richer than I am now. *Qua cum ita sint* it seems to me that I have not much cause to repine. But I wont pester you any more with my *egoism* until I have exhausted other topics.

I was rejoiced to hear that the health of your excellent father was so far restored. The exercise which his new situation will constantly induce him to take will I trust, complete his restoration. I thank you for your kind invitation and assure you that there are few in N. E. whom I should more desire to see and were my purse as full of dollars as your heart is of kindness I should lose no time in setting out. But now is the spring of my fortune. As yet not even the tender shoots appear. If they do rise there may come a cruel frost to nip them in the bud. So you see it is a thing impossible to hope for that I should see New England for a year or two at least.

Do you know the Dr. Howard who married my cousin Elizabeth? What sort of a gentleman is he? There is another brother of the *Pill* here from Boston who has accomplished a conquest of one of our loveliest ladies. His name is Hayward and he says he is acquainted with my cousin-in-law and speaks well of him. The lady is the youngest daughter of Judge [John] McLean who, some say, will be president of the U. S. one of these days. Only think of a Bostonian seeking a wife in the far West where when he was a child (some thirty years since) scarce a tree had been cut down so as to let in the light of the blessed sun upon the soil. So change all things of earth! But isn't it an excellent thing to be a stranger? One would think the world has grown wondrous charitable did we see nothing but the consequence which one enjoys in a strange place. My left hand to a Queen Anne's shilling Dr. H could not have obtained so pretty a girl in Boston and so highly gifted with other advantages, as Miss McLean.

I would tell something about Cincinnati but I scarcely know where to begin. The city has sprung up at once as it were from the bosom of mother earth, like Minerva proceeding armed at all points from the skull of Jupiter which I take to have been about the most monstrous conception ever begotten in the brain. Thirtyfive years ago and where Cincinnati now stands was one immense forest in the midst of wh. rose one or two mounds, mechancoly [sic] types of past ages. A few trees had been cut down on the margin of the river and a few huts had been constructed of their trunks. Fort Washington was built after-

wards and the striped and starred banner floated proudly over the spot where the Turkish crescent now glitters. A bazaar has been erected there in the fantastic style of eastern Architecture. And every thing had changed. The Ohio formerly rolled her waters along the base of abrupt overhanging banks but now the bank has been made to slope gently down to the waters edge from a great distance and is paved like the streets of Boston. There is a solid bed of stone extending a considerable distance up and down the river. Then [MS. torn] trees hung their branches over the flood. Now extensive warehouses and hotels lift their imposing fronts. Then a solitary canoe was now and then to be seen guided by the Indian huntsman moving over the water, loaded with the spoils of the chase. Now fleets of steam-vessels shoot swiftly along, annihilating distance and bearing in their ample bosoms the productions of the whole world. Is it not wonderful—passing wonderful, the difference between then and now?⁴⁸

Goodbye, my dear Tom, remember me affectionately to every member of your family—do not neglect writing so long again and believe [me] with sincerest affection

Your friend

P. S. Do you know what has become of Geo. Punchard?

⁴⁸ Writing in the *Cincinnati America* some time afterward Chase gave in greater detail his first impressions of Cincinnati. A portion of this description is worthy of reproduction in connection with the above account: "Thirty-five years ago our city was, as he [Daniel Webster] said it was, a little opening in the midst of a vast, unbroken forest. And what is it now? Let us look around us. Let us walk around Cincinnati and take note of what we see. First, there is the great landing, sloping down from Front street to the water's edge, a declivity of between sixty and seventy feet in perpendicular elevation, and reaching along the river more than two whole squares. The noble stream is up now, and a part of this immense work is hidden from view. Yet enough is visible to show that it would be a difficult matter to find a structure like it anywhere. If the rise of water hides the landing it shows the steamboats for the use of which the landing was made. There they are, of a stately structure, fitting the river on whose bosom they rush along, and the mighty territory whose productions they carry to a distant market. As if Providence had designed this spot for their use, the river, generally careering on with a rapid current, here sweeps round an eddy, and thus forms a natural harbor, as it were, for them. They are discharging and receiving their cargoes. To-morrow almost every one of them will be gone, and their places will be filled with others.

"As we proceed eastward, coming up into the city a little, our ears are greeted with the sound of busy occupation, and our eyes with the sight of the numerous factories. There are the steam mill, and the cotton factories, and the saw mill factories, and the engine factories, and others that we have not room to enumerate. Here is the principal source of the wealth and prosperity of our city. *It is labor that gives value to every thing.* The raw material is worthless till it is wrought. What purpose serves the iron in the earth? What good does the cotton ere it be gathered? Labor must be applied before value can be created. . . .

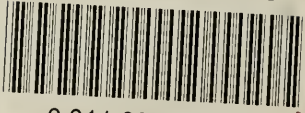
"We pass on eastward until we come to the water works, and then climb up the hill that lies just down upon the river, until we attain a commanding position for a panoramic view of the valley. The first thought that strikes us is, that this spot must have been marked out for a high destiny in the councils of heaven. That wide amphitheater below must surely have been scooped out on purpose to be the seat of a great city. On all sides it is guarded by the everlasting hills, which seem, from this point, to be arrayed around the whole valley, in the form of an ellipsis. We see *La Belle Rivière* entering it from the north-east. It sweeps round in a beautiful curve, and we see it again far off and seeming like a zone of silver, binding nature's verdant apparelling, gliding away tranquilly toward the mighty Mississippi. From the north and the south several small streams are seen pouring in their scanty tribute. The canal comes in from the north, and is covered with boats. We close our eyes for a moment and listen. We hear, from the river, the roaring of the stream; from the canal, the notes of the bugle; and from the entire city, that confused noise of the rattling of wheels; and the jar of machines, and the clamor of voices, which always indicate the presence of a multitudinous population. We open our eyes again and we almost imagine that we see the city grow. We do see all the symptoms of vigorous growth. There are factories, more than we saw when in the valley, and in every part of the city. There are many churches, some of them grand in their proportions, and splendid in their architecture. There are the residences of some of our private citizens that show like palaces. There are extending streets and multiplying erections of every description, on the two levels that, with the connecting declivity between them, form the area of this vast amphitheatre. There are the markets, not quite so neat fabrics as they might be, but filled to the overflowing with the abundance of the surrounding country, and crowded by the great multitude who live to eat, or eat to live. There, too, is NOT—alas! that we must say so—a CITY HALL worthy of the greatness and opulence of our city.

"Having now cast a general and rapid glance over the scene before us, we descend the hill, and we meet with men not yet past the prime of life, who tell us that when they were boys they used to gather grapes and hunt squirrels and wild turkeys over the very spot where these thick-crowding edifices now stand."—Warden, S. P. Chase, 185-187.





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