

5-13-1864

Letter to S. P. Chase

Charles Pettit Mcllvaine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.kenyon.edu/mcilvaine_letters

Recommended Citation

Mcllvaine, Charles Pettit, "Letter to S. P. Chase" (1864). *Charles Pettit Mcllvaine Letters*. 134.
https://digital.kenyon.edu/mcilvaine_letters/134

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the College Archives at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Charles Pettit Mcllvaine Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact noltj@kenyon.edu.

64-05-13

New York May 13. 1864

My dear Mr Chase

God be praised for His mighty
arm - in the terrible conflict before Richmond -
What desperation on one side - what determination
on the other - One can hardly think of any thing else
But about my going to Europe - I have written Bp
Bennett, I will go if reasonable expenses shall be
provided - I have been talking with the Rev. Dr
Dyer - our best manager of such things - & who
will take an active interest in it. He was for
several years Principal of our Grammar School at
Keppa College - & is now an influential man here
He suggests the following - First, that according to
your idea you write to Mr Aspinell & say to him
expressing yourself as you will best know how
also that you write to him (the Rev. Dr. Dyer at
Bible House N.Y.) saying about as much as the
following - viz that on other accounts than mere

ecclesiastical you think the matter important
to be accomplished - Dr Dyer wants that, as
he says, because while acting in a perfectly private
way - & with very few persons, he can get the
help of persons who know me & have confidence,
but on the more consideration of the Church aspect
of the matter might not be ready to act - persons
who would be influenced very much by such
a line from you - Recalling that if you do
writing to Mr Aspinwall, he would contact some-
thing with him.

I shall be here till Friday of next week - &
perhaps you had better enclose such a line
under cover to me -

If it seems that the thing can be done
I propose taking work on my way home - &
seeing what we can business about Mr Sprague
who needs the sea-air & moderate travel -
& for whom I shall be happy to do whatever is
in my power -

We have had excellent Anniversaries of the
Tract & Bible Societies - the slavery question having

pronounce it each. I copy from a report of
my address from the Chair of the Tract Society -
the closing words which, as an echo of what you
& I were conversing about last Monday may interest
you - After speaking of God's hand in the progress
of emancipation during the past year - as a principle
& a fact - I said

"And now, brethren, since we have been led thus
far, let us have courage to be consistent with what
we rejoice in - Let us face the whole proper result
of the Providence we have been contemplating - Let
the enfranchisement of our colored brethren be a com-
plete enfranchisement - Let it not stop in the removal
of the shackles, till all are taken away - If the colored
man is fit to be a soldier in the full pay & uniform
of our citizen-armies, standing at least upon an equality
of danger & toil with the white man, in defence of
our Government & its blessings, he is fit to be a citizen under
our Government in full liberty & privilege - We must boldly
face & honestly accept that result. With none it requires
no effort - God is leading us to it - All consistency demands
it - Our past history is full of inconsistency in that direc-
tion - We have never come up to the logical require-
ments of our Declaration of Independence - God be praised
that He is making straight our path - What I said

at the beginning, I expect that on these remarks
I speak not specially those occupying an official
chair. I speak only for myself" -

It was received with strong expressions of approval
The next day Mr. Lenoir, (the wealthy man) Pres. of the
Am. B. M. Soc. told me nothing had given him
so much life as what I said -

Please address me care of B. R. McShane
Esq - N. York - Yours affectionately
Chas. P. McShane

Dr. C. P. McShane
New York, May 3, 1844.

In relation to going to
Europe. Address before the
Tract Society &c.

Chase MSS