

10-10-1835

Letter to Philander Chase

John Worthington

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Rushville Ill^sOct 10th 1835R^t Rev^d Very dear Sir

Your favour to me from Philad^a was most gratefully rec^d. Your information that the Gen^l Convention had rec^d Illinois among the dioceses of the American Church - and had Ratified our Selection of a bishop, was highly pleasing to us; and the more so because we consider it an additional evidence that Our God favours the work now in Operation for the Extension of his Church, and the Salvation of his creatures - Looking then to You as our spiritual father & governor - I hope that this address altho' it may trespass on Your time - will not be considered troublesome -

I feel that my own and the future happiness of my family are very much identified with the prosperity of the Church in this dioc^{se}, and am exceedingly anxious to learn what has been done for us in the Eastern States - How far the effort to raise a fund to enable You to remove immediately to this State and also a fund for the benefit of needy churches in the West - was successful - A late letter from the Rev^d J. C. Richmond gives cheering hopes of its success - and also of the speedy establishment of a college - Will You have the goodness to inform me what has been done - and when You expect to be again in Your diocesan circuit -

My dear Sir we have not had the services of our Church performed by a clergyman since You left us - The Rev^d Mr. Hattaw of New York is now

withers - and will probably preach tomorrow -
Lay Reading Regularly attended to has kept us ^{only} a live
in the fold - but out of it we are making no progress -

My dear Sir Our wants are great and urgent
- I do not think the Missionary board could possibly
make an appointment abroad more promising
of good than at this place and Beardstown -

And yet unless from the Missionary board
we can have no hope or prospect of a pastor.
We are not able to offer a pecuniary induce-
ment - and if we could; a man who could be induced
in that way would not suit us. But if a situation
in a new and almost boundless (w/ resources) country - in
a village healthy and flourishing - with a field of use-
fulness wide extended and extending - where the people
are not only willing to receive and learn the doctrine
of our church - but with extended hands are anxiously
crying give us a teacher - give us the ordinances
of the church, and the sacraments of her religion - If such
a situation would induce some humble pious and
devoted man - surely, surely, our parish might
arrest his attention - What, tho' for a few years
he should suffer the inconveniences of a frontier
life? What, tho' many of the luxuries of life could
not be afforded by the smallness of his salary?

When he shall hereafter present his flock before the
throne of God as the fruits of his labours - will not his
Reward be in proportion to the sacrifice he has made
of himself - to the wants & sufferings which he has cheerfully
necessarily encountered - I can not believe Sir
that there is not one in our church - who would
willingly come and labour among us - I will not

believe that God will not provide for us in his
own good time - Therefore we are proceeding with our
chapel - It will be ready for the plaisteress in a few
weeks - However plain and humble it may be yet
we are determined to finish it as neatly as we can
and when it is finished, and consecrated to God - if it
then remains unoccupied, because, no priest will enter
therein to possess it - it will be a new thing under the
sun - a new thing in the history of our church -
May God fill it for us this winter - is the prayer
of many hearts truly devoted to the church
and more anxious for their own salvation

As some great good is frequently
compared by the combination of many
minutiae - in the hope that You will in that
way be speedily enabled to remove Your family to
the field of Your future labours; I beg You will
permit me to subscribe fifty dollars for that
purpose - which I will pay You on sight - or sooner
if practicable -

We are all very anxious to see You -
and I and my wife - the more so - because of our
having an infant daughter unbaptized -
with my prayers for Yourself & family
believe me dear Sir very respectfully
and affectionately

J^r
John S. Worthington

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John C. Smith