

458.
Samuel W. Chase
v.
Reuben Ruby & Co

L. J.
Rev Samuel W Chase

No 5 Park Street opposite the
Engine House Baltimore

Roby's letter from
Ehren

Poultone Saturday Ev. Sept^r 27th 1834

Dear Brother I received your letter of
The 19th and was glad to hear that you
And your family was all well
I have bin so much engaged that I have
Not bin able to write before but noing
you must be a waiting for a letter
I now set down in haste to write you a few
Lines and I inclose twenty dollars
And you had better take Passage to Boston
To a voyd all trouble we shall expect
you very soon to Poultone

Give our love to Brother Levington and
Family and our love to you wife and Nancy and
Elizabeth wishes to be remembered to you
I have not time to say more
your affec^ted Brother
Dudley

Ruby's letter to Rev.
Mr. Livingston

Rev. William Livingston

Baltimore

To the Care of Mr. Thomas Gunn

Light St

MD

Portland May 4th 1834

Dear Brother

I received your letter this morning and was
very sorry to hear that Brother Lively was
not a coming to Portland but believing
that all things work together for good to
them that love God I feel reconciled to the
disappointment tho we were daily expecting
him But Dear Brother you no what we
want it is not so much a man for the school
as for the ministry. if Brother Chase is an
experimental preacher he is the man we
want for Religion if very low here
if we can make out a serficient come we
should much rather he wood not keep
cool the first six months or a year then he
would have time to get well acquainted with
the people. Brother our house has bin down for
a long time and it is to be dedicated on Thursday
the 8th of May and we want some one as soon
as possible and if Brother Chase will come
I think he had better make his arrangement
so to send for his family if he likes here
I shall expect a letter soon unless he comes
Immediately for we are now destitute

Give our love to your family and
To Brother Lively

Young in haste
Frederick Hule

And Extract from the daily Courier:
We learn from the St. Johns Papers, the
Seventeenth anniversary of the New Brunswick
Auxiliary Bible Society was held on the 29th ult the
Meeting was very fully and respectfully attended,
We find the following Paragraph in a Report
of the Proceedings,

The Rev Samuel Chase
Pastor of the Abyssinian Church Portland Maine
To whom an opportunity was granted to speak in
Course of the evening, delivered a few animated
Sentences in relation of the good effects of Bible
Circulation in general, and upon his colored
Brethren in particular, he was received by the
Assembly with general approbation

Sep 5, 1835

~~Business with the Society~~

45.10
46.00
11.10

26

Messrs. Turner & Niles
Committee of the Abyanian
Congregational Church



To/ The Committee of the Abyssinian
Congregational Church

Messrs Hamet and Siles

Having been informed that there was a Committee appointed at a recent meeting of the male members of the "Abyssinian Congregational Church" consisting of yourselves and others for the purpose of having a personal interview with me the object of which is to ascertain upon what terms that I would be willing to settle the case now suspending before the Supreme Judicial Court

As it will not be convenient for me to have an interview with you this evening I therefore beg to state that the only conditions that I could comply with is a perfect recantation of all that have been published in those libellous publications and that through the medium of the daily papers in this city and remuneration of costs and damages

Portland June 29. 1837.

Yours Respectfully

J. W. Chase

Copy of note
of A. R. Soc. —

At a legal meeting of the Abyssinian Religious Society
of Portland, holden on the 7th day of November A.D. 1835:

Voted, That the Rev. Samuel M. Chase be the agent
of the Society, to visit such places as he may deem
expedient, and to procure, by subscription from the
friends of the colored people, funds for the use of said
Religious Society in paying the debts for which their
Meeting House is mortgaged.

A true copy Attest Ephraim Small, Clerk

New York June 17 1836

The undersigned having carefully examined the documents of the Rev. Samuel W. Chase of "Portland Maine", and being fully satisfied with them; and of the importance of his mission - Do hereby recommend him and the objects of his present visit, to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ and pray for the prosperity of Zion. And more especially to all who know us, and feel for the spiritual interest of our afflicted coloured population -

Theo. J. Wright

Pastor of the 1st Col. Pres. Ch. N. Y.

Saml E. Cornish

Boston July 18, 1836. The undersigned having examined the credentials of the Rev. Samuel W. Chase, and made themselves acquainted with the object for which he solicits aid, cheerfully recommends him to the Christian public.

J. E. Sewall
Geo. W. Light

We the undersigned Committee of the Abyssinian Church, respectfully inform their friends and the public that Samuel W Chase, is not the Pastor of the Abyssinian Church, nor is in fellowship with the Cumberland Conference, nor is not ~~an~~ ~~an~~ ordained nor a licensed preacher, nor is not sent out by the Church to collect money. Signed by order of the Church, by the deacons
(Signed) Abraham W Niles
Sept 20 " William Hamit

At the request of persons interested in the facts, I hereby certify that a church was organized among the people of color in this city on the 7th day of August 1835 under the name of "Abyssinian Congregational Church of Portland". Of this church Abraham W Niles and William Hamit have been duly appointed Deacons. The church, as yet, has not been under the pastoral care of any one, - but has enjoyed the occasional labors of different preachers.

(Signed) Joseph Vaill
Portland Sept 22 1836 Pastor of the 2^d church in Portland

As scribe of the council called to organize the church above referred to, I certify to the fact of such organization

(Signed) John W Chickering
Portland Sept 22 1836 Pastor of High Street Church

I Herely Certify that the within Certificate were Copied
from the daily Advertiser of Sep. 24 1836
and examined by me & appear to be correct

Geo M Gerrish

Adv^r Office Portlanda Dec. 13. 1837

Memorandum

Calvin Thayer

has conversed with
Johnson - Johnson? his
return has been und
by his account - present
to stick to what was
in the edict - as one
he would not recant
any thing in edict -

Samuel Hoopes

heard Hoopes say when
was a fine man
Thayer returned by
Johnson in Baltimore
he said he had letters
from Baltimore re-
concerning the
Hoopes has spoken very
highly of Thayer.

with Hoopes whether
he was at meeting when
on Sunday, the colored
people voted to support
Mr. Hoopes as minister
some of the former was
friends?

Prison by Frederic
Deikman - records
of N. R. Soc. -
would show vote
of N. R. Soc. appoint-
ing him agent to
obtain money to pay
debts for which some
was mortgaged -

10/754

All collections previous to publication of Libel
for the Socco's amount to: \$468.64

Expenditures, travelling expens, board 173.49

Paid to Sigs Treasurer 295.15
225.90

Bal. allowed in part of com- } 69.25
pensation for Secours

69.25
573
16.25

40.75
36.50
77.25

✓ 150, 1
✓ 205, 0
✓ 10,
✓ 215
✓ 10

590 118.10

Baltimore, Sept. 8th 1837.

Having been informed that a Mr. Sam^l. W. Chase, a coloured man, now in the State of Maine, is attempting to impose himself upon the Churches, as a Licentiate under the care of the Presbytery of Baltimore: I do hereby certify that he was never licensed to preach by the said Presbytery, but was dismissed, simply as a Candidate under their care, in 1834, to the Association in Maine, after having been examined only on experimental religion & his views in wishing to enter the gospel ministry. He has, therefore, not the slightest authority from the Presbytery of Baltimore to preach & if he presents any certificate of Licence, it is, without doubt, spurious.

L. M. Musgrave,
Clerk of
the Presbytery of Balt.

Mr. P. C. Cumberland ss. - To Jacob C. Dickson, James Davis,
John Eckford, Calvin H. Haines, Peter Hapley,
Daniel C. Colver, Samuel H. Colver, John
Shawington

GREETING.

YOU ARE HEREBY REQUIRED, in the name of the State of Maine, to make your
appearance before me, Samuel Stephen & Mr. P. Rebe Esquires one of the Justices of the
Peace in and for said county, on Saturday the 23^d day of December 1837,
at the wing upon the back street in said county, at 2 o'clock in the
at dwelling house in Portland,
after noon, to give evidence of what you know relating to an Action or Plea of the case
then and there to be heard and tried betwixt Samuel W. Chan
of Portland Plaintiff, and Nathan Ruby & others of Portland
Defendants

HEREOF FAIL NOT, as you will answer your default under the pains and penalty of the Law in that
behalf made and provided.

Dated at Portland the 23^d day of December A. D. 1837
John L. Meggier Justice of the Peace

Cum gratia Dec 22 1837

I have summoned
the within named
Shapley and Davis
by reading the writ
to them personally
and personally

Dec 23 1837

fees

fees each 1/6 — 50

fees each 1/6 — 50

fees of the sheriff

fees of the sheriff

Constable

We solemnly certify that we have
traveled one mile & returned one
day each in this car in S. J. Court.

Wm. C. Edwards

C. D. Mansell

Jacob Pickson

Communications
Dubois 1865

Denial of Imposition

The undersigned members of the Abyssinian Church & Society ~~do~~ hereby give notice to the publick that the Article inserted by them in the ~~proceeding~~ ~~daily~~ Advertiser of the 24th inst. is done by the advice and consent of said Society they deeming it their duty to unmask all impostors. The publick — are Requested to give no credence to the advertisement inserted for the advertiser of the 25th inst. by the self constituted committee — purporting to have come from the standing committee of said Society — as they deny ~~them~~ having any legal Right to act as a Committee ^{Further} — as the persons whose Names are attached to the ^{last mentioned} advertisement are not members of the said church or society ~~Furthermore~~ all religious societies & charitable Communities are cautioned against aiding or ministering of Christ who has but recently avowed to members of this society his intentions of creating dissensions and causing a separation in the society & that if he did not succeed in his most laudible object it was not his fault as God knows he had tried hard enough. As Samuel W. Chase has once before — troubled under the false pretence of collecting money which he and a few others have appropriated to their own use the Society also feeling grateful to those who are disposed to assist them — beg leave to assure them that they are not in want of any assistance at present.

Recommendations of
Gentlemen in Baltimore

Baltimore 16th May 1834

The Bearer, ~~Mr~~ W. Chase, is under the care of the Presbytery of Baltimore, prosecuting his studies for the Gospel Ministry. The opinion entertained of him by said Presbytery is most favourable. Not having prosecuted his studies sufficiently to satisfy the requirements of the Constitution, he is, of course, not yet a Licentiate. Understanding that he contemplates paying a visit to Portland, Maine, where there is a prospect of more extensive usefulness, both to that section of the Church, and to himself in prosecuting his studies, I cheerfully recommend him to the kindness of Christian Brethren, wherever he may go; but especially to the good feeling of the Brethren in Portland. He may there be eminently useful, not only as a Teacher; but also by availing himself of his undoubted right, as a Christian, to conduct Sunday Schools, exhort the Brethren, and in meetings for prayer and Christian conversation, to tell his opinion respecting the meaning of certain portions of God's Word, and encourage to faith and good works.

As an individual member of the Presbytery of Baltimore I affectionately recommend Mr Chase to Christians, as a young man of good character, who promises to be useful to the Church of Christ.

Jno Gibson, Pastor of
The 4th Pres. Church, Balt.

Samuel W Chase, has been pretty well known to me, for more than a year past. I was in some degree instrumental in bringing

him into the Church of Christ, and in advising his course, & directing
him that we, in his present of the ministry of reconciliation. — I have
great hopes as to his usefulness. — and do most cordially recommend him
to the affectionate consideration of all who love Jesus Christ.

May 16. 1834.

R. O. M'Graw
Pastor of the 2nd P. C.
Baltimore, Md.

I cheerfully unite in the above commendation, & kind regards
to Mr Chase, & hope he may receive such encouragement
from the friends of Christ as will facilitate his prepara-
tion for ~~the~~ ministry, & subsequently usefulness.

Stephen G. Quince
Pastor of the Presby. Church
Montgomery, N. York.

I have known Mr Chase as a Teacher for several years, and think highly
of his intelligence, and his capacity for instruction. — I have not often met with
a man of colour, who I have thought better qualified as a Teacher. — Mr C.
has not long been a Professr of religion, but I believe he is walking worthy
of the profession of attachment to the Garrison, which he has recently
made.

William Nevins

May 17. 1834.

Pastor of the 1st Res. Ch: Balt^o

May 19. 1834 I have known Mr. Chase, about Seven Years, as a Teacher
of a school. — in which capacity he has acquitted himself well. —
I believe him to be strictly Moral, and have no reason to doubt his
Piety. — I incline to think he may become a Useful Member in the
Church.

Wm. Nevins

Account for York Mass.

Wells August 27. 1834

This may certify, that, at a regular meeting of
your Association, Mr. Samuel W. Chase having
been examined in regard to his religious experi-
ence, knowledge of theology & pastoral duties,
is deemed to preach the gospel to the colored
people in Portland.

Cur husband ~~of~~

Levi Smith, Moderator
Chas. S. Adams, Scribe

H

Depot
Chase v. Ruby del.

The Magistrate is requested to propound to the
within named witnesses, or to such of them as may
be examined the following interrogatories, viz:

- 1st Whether or not Samuel W. Chase (a colored
man) formerly of the city of Baltimore,
but recently resident in the city of Portland,
in the State of Maine, was at any time
under the care of the Presbytery of Balti-
more, as a candidate for the gospel
ministry? If yes, when and how long?
- 2^d Whether or not the said Chase pro-
secuted theological studies sufficiently to en-
title him, by the rules & regulations of the
said Presbytery, to be licensed to preach the
gospel; and whether or not he was
so licensed by the said Presbytery? If yes,
when was he licensed? and is he or not
now a clergyman in regular standing
with the Presbytery aforesaid? —
- 3^d What are your means of knowledge
of the subject of the interrogatories aforesaid?

J. L. Megquier
Counsel for S. Chase

State of Maine.

Cumberland Co. Do Reuben Ruby, Titus Skellings, Abraham Siles,
John M. Johnson, William Hamett, George H. Black,
& Franklin G. Pierce of the City of Portland in the
County of Cumberland, Greeting.

Whereas Samuel W. Chase of said Portland in the
County of Cumberland, Clerk, has requested Jacob Walsh
Esquire of the City of Baltimore in the State of Maryland,
to take the depositions of Robert J. Breckinridge, James
P. Walker, Garrison Draper and G. W. Murgravin of said
Baltimore in the State of Maryland, to be used in an
action of the case pending between you and the said
Samuel W. Chase - and the office of the said Jacob Walsh
Esquire in said City of Baltimore and the eighth day
of November in the year of our Lord eighteen hun-
dred and thirty seven at nine of the Clock in the
forenoon and between that and six o'clock P.M. of the
same day, are appointed the time and place
for the said deponents to testify what they know re-
lating to the said action: you are hereby notified, that
you may then and there be present, and put such
interrogatories as you may think fit.

Given under my hand and seal, at Portland, on the
sixth day of October in the year of our Lord eighteen
hundred and thirty seven.

David Hayes, Justice of the Peace

State of Maine

Cumberland Co. City of Portland October 6th 1837.

I have this day made service of the foregoing noti-
fication by giving a true & attested copy thereof in hand
to the said George W. Black and also by leaving a true
and attested copy thereof at the dwelling house of the
said Ruby -

Wm. Bivrel Constable of
the City of Portland

Fees
Dues on each
1/6 - 50
2 Copies 1/6 50
Travel \$ 1.04

State of Maryland, City of Baltimore

In Pursuance of the Notification in writing
hereunto annexed, signed at Portland the 6th October 1837
by David Hayes, Justice of the Peace, I attended
between the hour of 9 o'clock in the forenoon, at my office in the City of Baltimore, to take
the deposition of Robert J. Breckinridge, James
P. Walker, Garrison Draper and G. W. Musgrave
to be and in an ~~action~~ ^{action} of the Case pending
between Samuel W. Chase Plaintiff and
Reuben Ruby & others ~~in~~ ^{as} Defendants - the
above party, or said Defendants, being duly
Notified, as it appears by the Return, and
Certificate of Wm. Bird, Constable, hereto
also annexed. But, the said Defendants did
not appear, or attend as Notified, nor any
person for them or in their behalf.

And at my office as aforesaid, and between
the hours aforesaid, personally appeared
Garrison Draper - colored man, of lawful
age and being duly sworn on the Holy
Evangel of Almighty God - with thereupon
depose and say - that he was a mem-
ber of the Presbytery ^{Church} of Baltimore for the
last twenty years, and was present
at the said Presbytery Meeting, when
Samuel W. Chase, colored man - afo-
said applied for, and was received
by said Presbytery as a Candidate

for the Gospel Ministry, according to
the usages of the said Presbytery -
That the said Samuel W Chase, left
Baltimore shortly, or some short time
after his being under the care of the said
Presbytery, to reside in some town in the
State of Maine, in order, to facilitate
his - the said - Samuel W Chase's - studies
in the Gospel Ministry - the said
Samuel W Chase returned to the City
of Baltimore, and then applied to
the Presbytery of Baltimore, at one
of its meetings - for permission to
labor in the Gospel Ministry at
Portland, in the State of Maine -
which permission, or leave, was then
granted to him by the said Presby-
tery - and that said Samuel W Chase
accepted the same, and separated
or took what is called by the Presbytery
his "stipendial" accordingly - and
this deponent saith, he became a member
of the Baltimore Presbytery in the year
1833 and ^{continued to be} a member thereof ^{until the 1836} and
as well as his Memory serves says, that
the said Chase was under the care
of the Presbytery of Baltimore during
the

Year 1834 - and took his "dismission"
in the year 1835 - and this deponent
saith further, that the said Samuel
W. Chase, did study theology under
the Reverend Robt. J. Mackensie
Pastor of the 2^d Presbylerian Church
at Baltimore, during the term of
his the said Samuel W. Chase, being
under the care of the Presbytery -

In Witness whereof the said Garrison
Drapa hath hereunto subscribed his
name in my presence
J. P. Garrison

And at this same time, appeared before
me the undersigned Justice of the Peace,
and between the Hours aforesaid,
James D. W. other - whose name of
Lawyer age - who upon his solemn
oath both before and during
was sworn to the 1st interrogatory - ex-
hibited to him on the Testification
aforesaid - that the said Samuel
W. Chase was under the care of
the Presbytery of Baltimore, and
as a Candidate for the Gospel
Ministry - the time when he believed
to

be in the year 1834 and part of the
year 1835 - to the second interrogatory
this deponent said, that he always
understood that said James
Chase did study theology under the
Rev. Prof. S. Pruddenridge - but to what
extent or how long he does not
know precisely - to the 3^d interroga-
tory - this deponent said, his know-
ledge is derived from his connection
with the first Colored Presbytery then
as an Elder thereof - and as a member
of the Presbytery of Baltimore.
In Testimony whereof the said James
Chase hath hereunto subscribed
his name - in my presence

J. McCallister
James P. Walker

State of Maryland
City of Baltimore
That the foregoing depositions
of Garrison Cropper and James P. Walker were
taken, sworn and subscribed to before me in execution
of the official Commission and Notification
between the hours of 9 o'clock in the forenoon and
6 o'clock P. M. on this 8th of November 1837, and at my
office in the City of Baltimore, in the State of
Maryland. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto
set my hand and seal this 8th day of November 1837

J. McCallister

State of Maryland, Baltimore County Ct.
Sheweth unto the aforesaid depositions were made,
and who has thereto subscribed his name & affixed
his seal, was, at the time of so doing, a Justice
of the peace of said State, in & for the City of
Baltimore, duly commissioned and sworn
In Testimony whereof I have
subscribed my name, and affixed the
seal of Baltimore County Court, this
fifteenth day of November, Eighteen
hundred and twenty seven

Thos. Keel, clk
Baltimore

Maryland Set

Thos. Keel, Clerk of the Peace of the County of Baltimore, do hereby
certify that the aforesaid attestation of Thomas Keel, Clerk
of said Court is not due form and by the proper officer.

Witness my hand at the City of Baltimore
this fifteenth day of November Eighteen hundred and
twenty seven

Thos. Keel, Clerk

Cumberland June 10th 1837 at 4 o'clock & 40th Sts P.M.
 I have attached all the ~~deeds~~ title, interest &
 estate which each of the Depts within named
 has in and to any land and houses in Pitt
 and in said County ~~and also~~ ^{on the same day}
 I gave a summons in hand to the within named
 Ruby and Johnson and afterwards on the 13th day
 of June 1837 I gave a summons in hand to the
 within named Shillings, Black, Niles & Hammer
 I left a summons at the last usual place of
 of Depts of Franklin & Pease within named at request
 of Depts I gave them a copy of the writ

Samuel W. Chase
 Reuben Ruby & others
 S. J. C. Nov. Term 1837

Genl. 350
 Jul. 44
 354

Jerec Martin Deputy Sheriff
 P.P.s. cost -
 Waiter - 2.10
 Service - 3.54
 Entry - .60
 Record - .33
 att. - 21st 10.23
 att. fee - 1.50
 Rules - .80
 Dep. of Walker - 13.73
 Witness for
 J. L. Perkins - 1.08
 E. Hamel - 1.08
 J. E. Edwards - 1.08
 cost to P.P.s. 2.00
 Refund 7.27.92
 Agreed to Refund to etc.
 Samuel Mesley, Clerk

PAID TO THE DEPT. OF THE CLERK

STATE OF MAINE.

CUMBERLAND, ss.—To the Sheriff of our County of Cumberland, or his Deputy,

GREETING.

WE COMMAND YOU to attach the goods or estate of ~~Reuben Ruby, John H. Hildes,~~
Abraham Niles, John M. Johnson, William Hammett, George
H. Black and Franklin G. Pierre all of the city of Portland
in said County
to the value of one thousand dollars; and for want thereof, to take the
bodies of the said Ruby, ~~Hildes, Niles, Johnson,~~ Hammett, Black and Pierre;
(if they may be found in your precinct) and
them safely keep, so that you have them before our Justices of our Supreme Judicial Court,
next to be holden at Portland, within and for our said County of Cumberland, on the second
Tuesday of November A. D. 1837, then and there
in our said Court to answer unto Samuel W. Chase of said Portland, Clerk.

in a plea of the case for that whereas the Plaintiff is a
good, honest and upright citizen of this State and from the
time of his birth has always behaved and conducted himself
as such and during all that time has been justly held
respected and esteemed of good name, fame and reputa-
tion among his fellow-citizen and acquaintances, and dur-
ing all that time has never been guilty, nor justly sus-
pected to be guilty of fraud, knavery, or deceit, nor of the
offence of obtaining money or other things by or under false
pretence or pretences, or of the crime of cheating, or, in
any way, of defrauding any person, or persons; and where-
as the Plaintiff, by means of his said good name, fame
and reputation and by reason of learning and of his moral
and religious life and character, had obtained the fa-
vor and good opinion of his neighbors and acquaint-
ances, and for the space of two years now last past,
has been and still is a minister of the gospel ~~in the~~
Presbyterian church, duly authorized and licensed, by the
Presbytery of Baltimore, to take upon himself that function
and during all the last mentioned time the Plaintiff
has been in that function and has been justly held and
esteemed in the same for his exemplary zeal for morality
and religion, and innocence of life, and integrity, and
has never been guilty of being an impostor, nor justly sus-
pected to be guilty of being an impostor, nor has ever been
guilty of the offences and misconduct hereinafter mention-
ed to have been charged upon and imputed to the Plain-
tiff, or of any other such offences or misconduct, and by means
of his virtuous and religious life and conduct and by
reason of the faithful discharge of his duties as a min-
ister of the gospel, the Plaintiff has not only obtained

the esteem, respect and good will of his fellow-citizens and

... been charges upon and imposed upon the Plaintiff, or of any other such offences or misconduct, and by means of his virtuous and religious life and conduct and by reason of the faithful discharge of his duties as a minister of the gospel, the Plaintiff has not only obtained

the esteem, respect and good will of his fellow-citizens and acquaintances, but has gained and received thereby a comfortable and respectable maintenance and support: and whereas the Plaintiff by means of his good name, fame and reputation and by reason of his honesty and integrity had justly gained the confidence and good opinion of the members of the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland, and, by a vote of said Society, at a legal meeting thereof, was duly appointed to be the agent of the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland aforesaid, and duly authorized to visit such places as he might think expedient, and to procure, from the friends of the colored people, funds for the use of said Society in paying the debts for which their meeting house was mortgaged, and in executing his said agency he has conducted with all good fidelity and honesty as well towards all persons of whom he has solicited funds for the benefit of said Society as toward the Society aforesaid, and has never been guilty, nor justly suspected to be guilty of fraud, knavery or deceit, or of obtaining money by false pretences, or pretences, or of the crime of cheating, or in any way of defrauding any person or persons; yet the said Reuben Ruby, ~~John~~ William Hastings, Abraham Niles, John M. Johnson, William Hammett, George H. Black and Franklin G. Pierre well knowing the premises all and singular as aforesaid, but wantonly, wickedly and maliciously

contriving to injure the Plaintiff in his good name, fame and reputation, and to injure him in his character as a minister of the gospel and to bring him into great scandal and reproach, at said Portland, on the twenty seventh day of May now last past, did write, print, utter and publish and did cause to be written, printed, uttered and published in the sight and hearing of divers good citizens of this State, a false, scandalous and malicious libel upon and against the Plaintiff in a certain newspaper printed and published in said Portland called the Daily Evening Advertiser, wherein the said

Reuby, ~~Stiles~~, Niles, Johnson, Hammett, Black and Pierre well knowing the premises among other things falsely scandalously and maliciously affirmed and declared, in writing and in print, of and concerning the Plaintiff, and of and concerning him in his character of minister of the gospel and of and concerning him as an agent of the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland aforesaid, the following false and scandalous words, to wit, "beware of imposition" (meaning the imposition of the Plaintiff) "The undersigned, members of the Abyssinian Church and Society" (meaning the defendants and others, and that they were members of the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland) "hereby give notice to the public, that the article inserted by them" (meaning by the defendants and others) "in the Portland Daily Advertiser of the 24th inst." (meaning the said newspaper, called the Daily Evening Advertiser published in Portland and which was published as aforesaid, on the twenty fourth day of May now last past) "was published by the advice and with the consent of said Society" (meaning the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland aforesaid) "they" (meaning the defendants and others) "deeming

it their duty to unmask all impostors" (meaning and intending falsely to insinuate ~~in~~ therein and thereby and by the aforesaid article, by them inserted & published as aforesaid, in said newspaper, that the Plaintiff was and is an impostor). "And the said Reuby, ~~Stiles~~, Niles, Johnson, Hammett, Black and Pierre of their further malice did then and there further cause to be again printed and republished, in manner aforesaid, and in the same newspaper called the Daily Evening Advertiser printed and published, as aforesaid, on the same twenty seventh day of May aforesaid, the same article, which had been previously printed and published by them, as aforesaid, and which article, forming and being a part of said false and malicious libel, was composed of and contained the following false and scandalous words of and concerning the Plaintiff and of and concerning him in his character of a minister of the gospel; and of and concerning him as an agent, as aforesaid, to wit, "notice to the charitable. At a meeting of the male members of the Abyssinian Church and Society, in Portland, on Monday, the 15th inst. The meeting being called to order by Mr. Niles" (one of the defendants) "George H. Black" (one of the defendants) "was appointed, Chairman, and G. G. Pierre" (also one of the defendants) "Secretary; when the following resolutions were unanimously adopted - viz - Resolved, 1st that the self-styled Rev. Samuel W. Chase;" (meaning the Plf. and that he had unjustly and improperly assumed and taken upon himself the style and designation usually given to ministers of the gospel) "now travelling as an agent of the Abyssinian Society of Portland" (meaning the Abyssinian Religious

of the male members of the Abyssinian Church and Society, in Portland, on Monday, the 15th inst. The meeting being called to order by Mr. Niles (one of the defendants) "George H. Black" (one of the defendants) "was appointed, Chairman, and F. G. Pierre" (also one of the defendants) "Secretary; when the following resolutions were unanimously adopted—viz— Resolved, 1st that the self-styled Rev. Samuel W. Chase; (meaning the Plf. and that he had unjustly and improperly assumed and taken upon himself the style and designation usually given to ministers of the gospel) "now travelling as an agent of the Abyssinian Society of Portland" (meaning the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland) "is not authorized by said Society" (meaning the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland) "to act in this capacity" (meaning in the capacity of an agent of the Abyssinian Religious

Society of Portland) "as they" (meaning the aforesaid Abyssinian Religious Society) "disclaim all connection with him" (meaning the Plaintiff) "and the few misguided men who are his" (meaning the Plaintiff's) "abettors. Resolved 2. that Messrs G. H. Black, J. Skillings and A. Niles" (three of the defendants) "be a committee to procure the publishing of the proceedings of this meeting. Resolved, that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Portland Advertiser and Argus" (meaning two newspapers printed and published in said Portland) "also in the Liberator, at Boston" (meaning a newspaper printed and published in Boston in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) "and that the editors of newspapers in N. H." (meaning in the State of New Hampshire) "be requested to copy the same" (meaning that the said editors be requested to publish, in their respective papers, the aforesaid proceedings and the aforesaid false and scandalous words of and concerning the Plaintiff) "George H. Black, Chairman. F. G. Pierre, Secretary" X And the said Ruby, ~~Skillings~~, Niles, Johnson, Hamett, Black and Pierre of their further malice, did then and there in the same libel, further cause to be written, printed and published, in manner aforesaid, of and concerning the Plaintiff, and of and concerning his conduct & character as a minister of the gospel, the following false and scandalous words, to wit, "all religious societies and charitable communities are cautioned against aiding a minister of Christ" (meaning the Plaintiff) "who" (again meaning the Plaintiff) "has but recently avowed to members of this society" (meaning the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland) "his" (meaning the Plaintiff's) "intentions of creating dissensions and causing a separation in the Society" (meaning the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland) "and that if he" (meaning the Plaintiff) "did not succeed in his" (meaning the Plaintiff's) "most laudable object it was not his" (meaning which false, scandalous, and defamatory words were

the Plaintiff's) "fault, as God knew he" (meaning the Plaintiff) had tried hard enough" (meaning and intending therein and thereby falsely to insinuate that the Plaintiff had said and declared to members of the said Abyssinian Religious Society that the Plaintiff had tried hard enough to create dissensions and to cause a separation in the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland). And the said Reuby, ~~Shillings~~, Niles, Johnson, Hammett, Black and Pierre of their further malice against the Plaintiff, did then and there further cause to be written, printed and published, in manner aforesaid, in the same Daily Evening Advertiser, of and concerning the Plaintiff and of and concerning his conduct as an agent, as aforesaid, the following false and scandalous words, to wit, "As Samuel W. Chase" (meaning the Plaintiff) "has once before travelled under the false pretence of collecting money, which he" (meaning the Plaintiff) "and a few others have appropriated to their" (meaning the Plaintiff's and others) "own use;" (meaning and intending therein and thereby falsely to insinuate and have it be believed, that the Plaintiff, at the time of the publication of said libel, was travelling for the purpose and with the design of obtaining money by false pretences and thereby to defraud the public, as well as that the Plaintiff, previously to that time, had travelled for the purpose of obtaining money by false pretences, and had so obtained money and had thereby defrauded the public). And the said Reuby, ~~Shillings~~, Niles, Johnson, Hammett Black and Pierre of their further malice against the Plaintiff, then and there, in manner aforesaid, in the same libel and in the same newspaper called the Daily Evening Advertiser aforesaid, and for the purpose of giving to their aforesaid false and scandalous libel upon the Plaintiff, the appearance and authenticity of truth and to inflict upon the Plaintiff the greater injury and wholly to destroy his good name, fame and

reputation among his fellow-citizens and acquaintances, and to destroy the Plaintiff's character and usefulness as a minister of the gospel, did further cause the names of the aforesaid Reuben Reuby, ~~Shillings~~, Abraham Niles, John M. Johnson and William Hammett, to be subjoined to the said libel and to be printed and published at the end of the aforesaid libel, as a committee appointed to procure the publication of the advertisement, in said newspaper, wherein the aforesaid false and scandalous words of and concerning the Plaintiff were written, printed, uttered and published, as aforesaid. And the said defendants of their further malice and for the purpose of giving greater effect and force to the aforesaid false and scandalous libel upon the Plaintiff and to inflict upon him, and upon his character, the greater injury, did, then and there, further cause to be written, printed and published, in manner aforesaid, at the end of the aforesaid libel and after the names of the aforesaid supposed

ett, to be subjoined to the said libel and to be printed and published at the end of the aforesaid libel, as a committee appointed to procure the publication of the advertisement, in said newspaper, wherein the aforesaid false and scandalous words, of and concerning the Plaintiff were written, printed, uttered and published, as aforesaid. And the said defendants of their further malice and for the purpose of giving greater effect and force to the aforesaid false and scandalous libel upon the Plaintiff and to inflict upon him, and upon his character, the greater injury, did, then and there, further cause to be written, printed and published, in manner aforesaid, at the end of the aforesaid libel and after the names of the aforesaid supposed committee, and of and concerning the aforesaid supposed committee, as follows, to wit, "committee appointed to publish the same," (meaning the aforesaid advertisement, so published in the same newspaper, as aforesaid) "signed by thirty-one others of the Society," (meaning the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland, and further meaning and intending therein and thereby falsely to insinuate that the aforesaid ~~supposed~~ Ruby, ~~Williams~~, Niles, Johnson and Hamett were appointed and authorized, by thirty one members of the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland aforesaid, who had signed the aforesaid libel, as a committee of the said thirty one members to cause the aforesaid advertisement to be printed and published in manner aforesaid) — Now the Plaintiff in fact avers that the said supposed committee were not appointed

by thirty one members of the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland, nor were they by the aforesaid Society in any way authorized, to publish the aforesaid libel in the aforesaid newspaper as a committee of the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland, nor in any manner to publish the same; and the Plaintiff further avers that in truth he was not and is not guilty of any of the offences, misdemeanors, crimes and misconduct with which he is charged in the libel so written, printed, uttered and published of and concerning him by the said defendants, in the newspaper called the Daily Evening Advertiser aforesaid — By reason of all which false, scandalous, and defamatory words and statements, so written, printed, uttered and published by the said Ruby, ~~Williams~~, Niles, Johnson, Hamett, Black and Pierre of and concerning the Plaintiff, as aforesaid, the Plaintiff has suffered in his good name, fame and reputation and in his character of a minister of the gospel among the good citizens of this State; has been greatly wounded in his feelings and has fallen into great scandal and reproach; and has been and is, by means of the premises, otherwise greatly injured.

STATE OF MAINE.

CUMBERLAND, ss.—

At the *Sup: Jud: Court* begun and holden
at Portland, within and for said County of Cumberland on
the *Second Tuesday of November* in the year of our
Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-*Seven*

Samuel W. Chase v Ruben Ruby & als

In a plea of the case as in the Writ is set forth

The parties appear, and agree to refer this action
to the determination of

Samuel Tappenden and Wm. P. Preble Esquire,

The report of whom, ~~or any two of whom~~, to be made as soon
as may be— Judgment thereon to be final; and execution to issue
accordingly. And if either party neglect to appear on due notice
given, the referees are to proceed **EX PARTE.**

Attest, *Charles Cobb* Clerk.

CUMBERLAND, ss... *January 11th 1838*

Pursuant to the foregoing Rule, we the Referees therein named, hav-
ing notified, met and fully heard the parties, and ~~carefully~~ ^{for the time of the hearing} considered
their several allegations, and the evidence produced to support the same,
are of opinion, and do report accordingly, That

~~That~~ the said *George Blake* and *Franklin Pierce*
are not guilty in manner and form as the Piff had
had alleged; but that the said *Blake* & *Pierce* shall
recover no costs of the Piff - and we are further of
opinion that the said *Ruben Ruby*, *Abraham*
Niles, *John M. Johnson* and *William Hammett*
are guilty of publishing the libel headed
"Beware of Impostition" and that they have failed
in making out a justification therefor, and that
the Plaintiff recover of the said *Ruby*, *Niles*,
Johnson & *Hammett* the sum of one hundred
and fifty dollars damage, & cost of Piffs travel
and attendance before Referees taxed at two dollars,
and cost of Court, to be taxed by the Court; or

And the reason why we do not give a greater
sum in damages is what we deem the inability
of the ~~Plaintiff~~ ^{Defendants} to pay more - and our statement in this
report that we do not consider the justification
set up to be made out - and for their services
in hearing the Parties & making up this award
the Referees charge no fees, having assumed the
duty from an anxious desire to promote the
peace and welfare of all the Parties, and
those connected with them by affinity & situation,

Samuel Henderson
Wm B Preble } Referees

Rule in

Case of Ruby &

UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY OF HARVARD

Portland Sept 1st 1837

J. W. Gilman Esq. Dear Sir. I have received your letter of the 28th ult making enquiries relative to the Rev^d Mr Chase, a coloured gentleman, who has been preaching in this City. I will state all I know regarding the subject. There has arisen a most unfortunate division in feeling among the coloured citizens of this City in regard to Parochial concerns, and the meeting House built by them. The House was mortgaged to Mr Ruby, who is probably the best off in point of resources, for advances made to the amount of about \$300 - After which Mr Ruby went forward to complete the House and expended, as he alleges, and as the jury on trial have found to the amount of \$900 - In this state of things, I believe in consequence of religious feelings, growing out of a disagreement about Mr Chase as their minister, the alienation of feeling occurred, which has resulted in a positive separation.

of success. We Sumner & DeLois, I am sure credit
If Ruby should hold on upon his verdict, the
House will stand pledged for about \$1200 -
If Ruby should not hold the ~~pledge~~ for the
disputed part of his claim, the House will
stand pledged for about 500 to 600 - a part of
Ruby's claim is undisputed, being money paid
on an Exn recovered against the Society by a third
person - About 700 out of 900 is disputed -
I know of no objection to the character of Mr
Chase. I trust I believe he is a good man.

He had had his feelings excited & had taken
sides very strongly with the party, the present
occupants. On the other hand I feel sure, that
some individuals have done wrong in a
publication in the paper, in which the character
of Mr Chase is attacked. But there is now
a suit commenced by Mr Chase, with which
Sumner & DeLois has no concern.

As an individual I exceedingly regret this
unhappy division. It give occasion to asperse the
character of our coloured people, & to cripple the
efforts of abolitionists. Among those opposed to
Mr Chase I believe are good people - Christians -
Such as Mr Ruby & wife. Mrs Peir and others -
Probably in this as in all other controversies
like it, there is error, and wrong feeling on

both sides - I do not think Malbone an impostor,
or that he would deliberately do wrong. He is a man
of good powers of mind. He is not the ordained
Pastor of any Society, and no organized Church is
connected with him in the House -

S. H. Gilman Esqr
Hallowell
Maine

Mr. Speaker's etc

Thus have I given a narrative of the facts so far as
known or understood them. In such a controversy
there is always much of crimination & recrimination,
much of wrong feeling, imprudent action on both
sides; but to one looking on like myself, may be seen
much to pity and lament, without the imputation of
unworthy motive - I should truly rejoice to see their
pains and all divisions healed -

Your friend & cont
Saml Sumner