

Boston June [13, 1833]

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Dear Brother

A number of the friends of Christ in Boston & vicinity, who feel deeply interested in the progress of Evangelical doctrine, vital piety & stern Christian morality & who believe that the periodical press may be made a most efficient instrument in their promotion, have, for some time, felt the necessity of a new weekly religious paper in Boston. The establishment of such a paper has been the subject of frequent conversation & has seemed to them to be imperiously demanded.

Here however the question has arisen at once, what kind of a religious paper shall it be? And I believe the general feeling has been that it ought to cover a broad field - so far as it can be done in one paper, that it should cover the ground of the Spirit of the Pilgrims & Christian Soldier in respect to the prevailing errors of Boston & vicinity; the ground of the N. York Evangelist in respect to revivals & free doctrinal discussion; the ground of the N. York Observer in respect to religious & political intelligence, & the ground of the Genius of Temperance in respect to the great subject of Christian Morals.

And farther, that it should be conducted with entire independence, assuming to itself the right to think & speak for itself on each & every subject embraced in its design; considering itself as pledged to no particular party of men or class of opinions, but as set for the defence of truth whatever that may be, & with whomsoever or whatsoever it may clash; & to this end, that it should hold its columns

open to fair & candid discussion on each & every subject of
Christian doctrine & practice.

If such a paper, conducted on such
principles could be established & sustained (if it does not yet
appear that it cannot) it is believed that, with the blessing
of Almighty God attending it, it would be an instrument
of great & lasting good to the churches of Christ throughout
New England.

Now what is desired of you, dear Sir, is that
you would give us your opinion, & what information you can
on the following topics.

1. Do the interests of religion in your vicinity
demand, in your opinion, the establishment of such a paper?

2. Is the feeling that there ought to be a
new religious paper in Boston, prevalent in your vicinity?

3. Do you take the N. Y. Evangelist or
Observer & why?

4. Do your people take either, why, &
how many copies.

5. Would they probably take such an
one as that proposed in preference to either, provided it
came from Boston.

6. How many copies of such paper could
you probably circulate among your own people?

7. If established, are you willing to stand
pledged to write for it, & in this way, & by endeavoring to
promote its circulation, do what you can to sustain it
& make it what it should be?

An immediate answer to these in-
-quiries & the communication of any other facts or information
which will be of use in coming to a decision respecting the
expediency of this measure will much oblige
Yours sincerely