

Wm Lloyd Garrison  
Boston, Feb. 21, 1837.

PHELPS  
MSS.

Dear bro. Phelps:

In reply to yours of the 18th ~~th~~ inst. allow me to say—  
1. That your withdrawal from the anti-slavery cause, at the present time, and under present circumstances, (if at any former period to the abolition of slavery,) is manifestly "out of the question." Your services cannot "be spared without any great injury to the good cause." The responsibilities upon the tried friends of emancipation are not diminishing, nor is the pressure upon them alleviated, by the many conversions that are taking place in favor of our views. If more hands are found to work the abolition ship than heretofore, still we cannot spare a single pilot. If our army be enlarged, the recruits are raw, and require much drilling: the leaders to the onset must remain in the forefront of the battle. Hence, you must continue at your post.

2. While it is desirable that you should be able to act in ecclesiastical bodies officially, it is more important that you should be mainly consecrated to the anti-slavery cause.

3. I do not wonder that you are "tired out with moving about from pillar to post." But our desire is, in Boston, not to keep you rambling, but to allow you to remain as a fixture—at least, you can do pretty much as you please in regard to lecturing, travelling, &c. The most of your time will be wanted in the city.

4. Your strong reason for turning yourself into a country parson is poverty—nay, not poverty, but debt. But we hope to put that reason aside entirely—i. e. by making you as good an offer, in a pecuniary point of view, as you can obtain in any other situation. Although we have not had a Board meeting since your letter was received, I know that the Board will be perfectly willing for you to stipulate for yourself as to terms. Or if you decline doing so, and prefer that they should name your salary, they will undoubtedly put it at \$1500, or even higher if you wish.

In addition to this, you will be allowed your Sabbaths gratis — so that you can probably add \$500 to the \$1500 by preaching, making \$2000 as the sum total. I have just been conversing with our mutual friend John E. Fuller. He informs me that Rev. Mr. Fitch will undoubtedly leave the Free Church very soon, as he wants a higher salary than they can really afford to give him. Bro. F. says that Dea. Sullivan talks of inviting you to take Mr. Fitch's place: he (bro. F.) thinks the following arrangement can be made, and to the perfect satisfaction of the church and congregation, viz. You can accept the agency of our Society and yet supply the pulpit, or agree to see it supplied, for the Free Church, on the Sabbaths, and thus receive the customary compensation. This, I think, will be agreeable to you.

I deeply regret that the health of ~~your dear~~ <sup>your dear</sup> wife is generally so delicate, as to require her to absent herself so large a portion of the year from the city. As a loving husband, I can appreciate how great a sacrifice to you both it is to be separated in this manner. On this point, I dare not urge your coming, with that freedom which I can on other points.

From this invitation to come to Boston, you must not suppose that we think you are not admirably calculated to occupy the editorship of the Emancipator. Far otherwise. We shall regret, on many accounts, your resignation of that post, (unless you come to Boston,) especially if bro. Goodell does not supply your place. I hope he will be induced to leave Utica.

All the Parkers reciprocate your kind expressions. Miss Lucy will endeavor to find you convenient accommodations in her house, whether you come sooner or later — whether you require one or two rooms — but, of course, she cannot pledge to this effect with positive certainty upon an uncertainty.

Our Society will be disposed to wait for you until after the May anniversary, provided you will speedily engage to accept of its offer. I trust you will see your way clear to come, as a matter of duty and happiness. May <sup>you</sup> be guided by infinite wisdom to a right decision.

What a dreadful reproach has been brought upon the  
cause of Christ by the sinful conduct of Roy Potter, that "brother  
beloved," with whom we have taken sweet counsel together, and  
whom we have regarded as among the best of mankind. The know-  
ledge of it almost crushes the life out of my heart - I am over-  
whelmed with sorrow and consternation. How will hell re-  
joice, and heaven mourn!

You and our friends in New-York will rejoice to  
learn, that, on Thursday afternoon next, we abolitionists are to  
have a hearing before a legislative committee in the House of the  
House of Representatives, to show cause why the Legislature should  
protest against the resolution of Congress, laying our petitions upon  
the table unread and unreported - and why the Legislature  
should call for the abolition of slavery in the District of Colum-  
bia. The State House will undoubtedly be crowded. You see  
we keep agitators in their quarters. Our Society has engaged Geo.  
S. Hillard, as a lawyer, to speak on the occasion, and bro. Stanton  
will sustain <sup>him</sup> Mr. Loring and Mr. Sewall, as well as  
myself, are too busy to make any preparation, and can-  
not speak without it. We shall probably be permitted  
to have two or three hearings before the committee - but shall not  
accept the liberty, unless we can get suitable persons to speak. -  
We had serious thoughts of sending Whittier or Stanton just haste  
to New-York for bro. Weld - it is a glorious opportunity for him,  
if his health will permit, ~~for him~~ to do good on an immense scale.  
I send him instantly, we beseech you, even if you charge us a  
thousand dollars for his coming. Tell dear Weld he cannot over-  
faintly imagine the state of things with us, and what a crisis this  
is with our cause in this Commonwealth. The Legislature will  
remain in session till the 1st of April. If bro. Weld will  
come, he ~~can~~ can gain access, directly and indirectly, to six  
hundred representatives, who are now in the most favorable  
state of mind to hear him. The only person we can rely upon  
is bro. Stanton, but he is almost broken down with his unwearied  
toil, and says we must have bro. Weld at all hazards,  
if all our friends speak through me to hear Weld with the voice  
of agonizing entreaty. Will he not come under these circumstances?  
Let me hear from you again. My regards to your  
loved and all the friends. Ever yours, Wm. Lloyd Garrison

No. 2

No. 2



Single. — Paid.

PAID  
Rev. Amos A. Phelps,

Editor of the Emancipator,

New-York City.

(Private.)