

Athol Nov 30th 1830

Brother Phelps

I thought you had "forgotten to be gracious," until your tardy letter came along last week. However, "better late than never," thought I. As you wished for a prompt reply, I now show you how punctual I can be. These are + first lines I have written for 4 days; I have brought my strength down a little by excessive labor, have been bled for + first time in my life; feel rather tober, I think I won't joke you any about your new & strange situation in life. I will however congratulate you in regard to + precious pearl you have lately found. May she prove as invaluable as + one described in + last chapter of + proverbs of + wise man. I hope you will evermore realize + truth of Solomon's remark, "whoso findeth a good wife, findeth a good thing, & obtaineth favor of + Lord." I rejoice to hear of + commenced revival among your peo. On + season now before you, may depend + fact, whether Woburn is, during a generation to come,

to be divided by Unitarians. In Royalston, a wealthy
town adjoining Athol, a few leading Unitarians
have within a few years boasted, the soon they did
sweep + town. But + Lord has within a few months
been sweeping + town with + renovating influence in
of his spirit, & doing it in a very still & wonderful
manner. A large number of parents are
among + recent converts; some Unitarians of +
very stout hearts have been humbled & renovated.
The foundations of orthodoxy seem to be laying
then for another, if not for many generations. Thus
may it be with your society. As for orthodoxy in Athol,
it seems to be steaming + current of prejudice & so
opposition well. The Evangelical Soc^y continues to
grow. Its now numbers almost 90 members. Some of
+ Unitarians are so mad with me, I understand some
of them say they wish a bullet was put thro' me. Athol
they hoped & expected this whole town wd join in settling
a preacher of smooth things, who wd cry peace to wordlings
Universalists infidels &c. Our town house is filled almost
to overflowings; we have ^{had} nearly 300 persons present of late
whereas + other society probably has had only about 200.

Many reports have of course been in circulation, ^{too} than has been
likely much to divert + attention of my pro. from religion as a per-
sonal concern. But I have labored to make + pro. think
about their own danger & wants, & attend to their own duties.
The state of religion has every week been becoming more
interesting. There has ^{been} little else than a succession of changes
since I came here. The foundations needed to be laid: prejudices
are removed, habits changed, views enlightened &c. "Blithely
& Lord hath helped us." My Soc^y bear new things pretty
well, & begin to like changes very much. Our Sab. school
is now nearly as large again as it was when + 2 Soc^y
were united. It now numbers towards 125, & includes most
of + old & young who tarry at noon. My Biblical lectures
& Sab. ev^g are very fully attended; many of + Unitarian
come out to it. We have for several weeks been cheered
of with + news of conversions among + pro.. From 15 to 20
some are already indulging hopes of a radical moral change
in their character of late. There are probably about as many
more somewhat anxious. 13 stand proposed for admission to
+ ch. next Sab., 5 of them are male heads of families. Several
of + 13 were hopefully pious long before I came here, but w^d not
join this ch., with + dark prospects then before it as to Unitarianism.
The first young ladies in town are among + hopeful converts & +
anxious. But interesting as + state of things now is, I am under an

