

New York Aug 17. 1836

Dear Wife

26

I have delayed writing you longer than I in-  
-tended. The bills came to hand safely. Frederick has found  
a situation here where he can <sup>have</sup> his board, fuel, room,  
light &c & \$200 per year. I think it quite likely he will  
accept it. — A few days since a colored man  
came to the office with a bundle for me, for which  
he <sup>wanted</sup> twenty five cents, & on opening it, I found <sup>it</sup> full of  
Cotton thread &c &c — have you lost such a bundle?  
Or did you lose a part of your baggage on your  
way home? — In regard to house keeping, I know  
not what to do — my impression on the whole is that  
I shall stay where we are — my poverty forbids any  
other arrangements, and I am resolved at all  
events to be out of debt. I have forwarded Thurston  
his money — paid my tailor at Boston \$50 — & shall  
send the \$50 to Providence in a day or two & all  
without borrowing. They pay me \$12 the Sabbath at  
the Tabernacle, which is quite a help to me — and bet-  
-ween you & me I guess they would be glad to get me  
for their minister — this is not to be told of though, not  
even to mother — Now mind. The congregation has been  
steadily increasing ever since I began. I suppose afternoons  
& evenings we have not less, on an average than 12 or  
1500.

My own debts are now all paid with the exception of about  
\$50— though of course I am some two hundred dollars in advance  
on my salary. The first of October however if God spares my  
health I shall have paid all my debts & with no advance on  
my salary, leaving me the whole income \$625 of the succeeding  
six months of my editorial year, for the expenses of those  
months. With that & what I shall get for preaching occasionally  
I shall be able to do a little towards paying some of mother's  
debts— Whether I shall continue in the Editorship another  
year is uncertain. If some place should open to me where they  
would at once relieve me of all pecuniary embarrassments  
by loaning or giving me outright enough to pay off mother's  
debts, & it should in other respects be such a situation as I  
thought I ought to fill, I think now I should enter upon it,  
& yet I love the cause of the poor slave so, I don't know  
what I should do when put to the test. — Plagden of Boston  
you know is probably going to the Old South— When I first  
heard that he was going to leave ~~Boston~~ I wrote Drew, that  
if he went away, & they wanted me at Salem Street, I would  
come when my year was out. This was half serious  
& half not, & was put in, in a word, at the close of a letter  
I was writing him in relation to our affairs— If Plagden  
goes to the Old South I should not wonder if I heard from  
Salem Street, but I shall not think of that or any other position  
except on such conditions as will relieve me at once from debt.

I wish you would see Mr. Horace Cowles, if his son  
is there, inform him that his letter was received & would have  
been answered long ago, but that Mr. Benedict was not.

able to say positively whether there would be an opening  
in his office or not. When I last called on him he wished  
me to wait <sup>an</sup> answer still longer, but I told him I thought  
it would not do, & so he said, "Say no opening." I  
suppose it is still in doubt whether his foreman leaves  
or not. If Cowles were to come in town, with A. F. Williams  
I think it quite probable he would find some place such  
as he would like.

Tell the dear boy Papa shall be glad to hear him spell baker  
&c when he comes home, which will be early in September,  
& perhaps sooner. Remember me affectionately to mother &  
all. Tell Ralph I am glad to hear that <sup>he is</sup> ~~was~~ a good boy, &  
ouldah that I am glad to hear that she is a good girl.

Your affectionate husband

Amos A. Phelps.

A. A. Phelps  
N. York Aug 17  
1836

Single.



*L*  
Mrs. Charlotte Phelps  
Farmington

Ct.