

April 23. 1838.

PHELPS
MSS.

39

Friend Knapp

I went to Medham yesterday, & of my
three lectures, ^{then the people there} did ~~no good~~ ^{the opportunity furnished} ~~me~~,
in going & coming, for reflection, ^{did me some,} has brought me to a
result which I ~~trust~~ ^{doubt not} will ^{be} gratifying to you & all con-
-cerned. I have concluded then ~~to withdraw the "State~~
-ment" & to allow the Report to go out ^{as it is.} ~~without any~~
~~appendix of the kind~~ My reasons are ~~two~~, 1st that I
have no ~~the least~~ ^{for} wish ^a controversy on the subject, though I
should not shrink from it were I ~~still~~ of opinion that
the interests of the cause requires ~~its~~ ^{its} ~~to be~~, & mainly,
that I find myself in this case guilty of the very
thing for which I blame Garrison. I have thought & do
still that the passage in the Report does injustice to the
parties implicated, but "waiving" this I go on to blame
Garrison for the want of a generous & forgiving spirit
in the case. The want of such a spirit I think he has
manifested, & for which I think he is to blame. Admitting, as
he does that such a censure, even if just, was not
absolutely demanded by the integrity of the cause, a gen-
-erous & magnanimous, & forgiving spirit, it seems to

me, must have waived it. Be this however as it may,
this is that for which I chiefly blame him, & yet, strange
inconsistency, I at the same moment fall into the
- selfsame fault. I thought before & think now, that the
complaint I prefer is just, but being so, a generous
& magnanimous spirit in the case, I am now
satisfied, should have kept me from preferring it
in the form of the "Statement" to go into the report.
For however just I may regard it, I cannot say
that I think it ~~absolutely~~ required by the stern
necessity of fidelity to the integrity of our cause.
Having opposed the adoption of the passage in
question then in the society & in the Report, I
ought, ^{in this point,} to have been content with that; & so far as
informality in bringing forward the Report was
concerned ^{I thought} ~~to~~ have sought redress, as I now pro-
- pose to do, in seeing to it, that no other report
comes forward in the same way, ^{the character of the Report &} ~~let~~ ^{the cir-}
-cumstances of the case, be what they may. That
I have not been content with this, ~~I~~

I have thus fallen into the very fault ^{of which I complain,} ~~Charge on~~ ~~friend~~
~~Garrison~~, I can account for only by the ad-
-mission, that personal feeling have ^{had} more to do in
the case than I was at the time aware. So far then,
I frankly confess myself in the wrong, & accordingly
as the proper repentance,
take back the statement. ~~Your will of course will~~
~~publish it & nullify Your will of course.~~

I have not yet seen the other members of
the Board whose names were appended, but will do
so in the course of the day. I doubt not however they
will concur with me in ~~that~~ views here expressed.
You will then of course hand this to Mr. G. -
charge me with the expenses incurred in the
case, & not publish the "Statement" in the Report
or Liberator.

Yours truly

A. A. Phelps.

Boston Monday Morning Apt. 23d. 1838.

