

Brooklyn Dec. 18/45.

Bro. Williams,

I am so occupied & my health is such that I cannot meet with the Committee on Office & Reporter at Washington. As I said to you & remarked in Committee, there is no use in my going to Washington, & I may add remaining here unless some proper arrangements in regard to Office &c. are made - arrangements that contemplate entering on our "Plan of Effort" in truth & in earnest; & leaving me only that kind of labor & responsibility that I expected when I came here. I can't give the reasons for this at length, but let me state some things that should be done, & in all of which I could at least, as the representative of the Committee, take an active part.

1. An edition of 100,000 at least of the Digest of Slavery in the District, which I propose to prepare should be printed & scattered broad cast over the free & slave states. Let us tell Hunt Brothers & some other such what we are at & we can get the money.
2. On the basis of this & in connexion with it, we should send out an appeal to abolitionists all over the country to re-organize the old societies, or form new, & go to work circulating petitions as aforetime. We must resuscitate our organizations - a disbanded is a conquered army. The Politicians & Ecclesiastics understand this right well, but too many abolitionists do not.
3. My discussion with Beecher must go on - that, should comprise a pretty thorough exhibit of the Bible argument against slavery.
4. I should attend the Miss. Convention in Central New York. It will devolve on me too to see that one is called in due

time for New England.

5. No pains should be spared to secure a large Convention in Philadelphia at the meeting of the New School Synod. It is called, & Congregationalist are invited to meet with the Presbyterians. No reliance can be placed on the Evangelist or any other religious paper ~~by~~ that school to call out a large attendance. It must be done in the Reporter & other Anti-Slavery prints. To do this, & also to act effectually on the Assembly a statement should be prepared showing the action of the Assembly hitherto, & republishing the anti-slavery action of its subordinate bodies. Let the Assembly see how many Presbyteries & Synods have taken high ground, & see if they will dare to hold back longer.

6. Following this I ought to, able to attend the meetings of the several large ecclesiastical bodies.

7. It is quite probable too that our Miss. Conventions will cut out some work to be done in regard to the Board, in the way of further remonstrance & discussion. But I must stop.

Now I can't begin to do these - any of them as they should be - whether I stay here or go to Washington - unless I am quit of all other responsibility; & I am not willing to attempt it.

Let it be seen that, through me, the Committee are moving in all these, & the Community will feel that we are doing something, & be ready to give us funds as we need. We shall then have something growing out of our own operations to give the Reporter an interest peculiar to itself, & on account of which as our organ people will want it. But the idea of making the Reporter a work of commanding interest out of those materials only which are afloat & common to all the press, is absurd.

It is just attempting, to make brick without straw, to reap a harvest without seed. And to do it, in the circumstances in which I have hitherto, for the most part, been obliged to attempt <sup>it</sup>, is worse than absurd. I suggest then, as the result to which you come, should come, the following.

1. All letters containing money, whether for the Reporter or the Society to be directed to Mr. E. Whiting.

2. The small room next to Prof. Bush's in Morse's building to be secured as a study for me, when I am here. It can be had now, for some \$50 or \$60 a year, will give me access to Prof. B.'s library, will save me from the interruptions of the many I get kept <sup>me</sup> within reach of the few, who may wish specially to see me.

3. The entire control of the large back room of our present office to be secured from the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan'y, or May, as the Committee think best, on a similar room secured elsewhere.

4. The employment of some one competent to keep the books, to write the wrappers, mail the papers &c. who shall be at the office all the time & subject to no man's call but ours; & to whom the Treasurer, having taken charge of the money, can send all letters enclosing subscribers for the Reporter. Such an one will find enough to do, & if he does not will cost but little if any more than we now pay for doing what he would do. I would employ some trusty & competent colored man. There is such an one, who writes wrappers for the Evangelist—goes by the name of Doctor. Mr. Finch will tell you about him. There is also <sup>Bro. Cornish son</sup>

5. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan'y. we should have a box of our own at the Postoffice. Nothing improper has occurred that I am aware of under the present arrangement. But having a young man of our own, it will be far better to have all our affairs by themselves. If we have no such office agent, why this also may be left where it is.

If you can mature a better arrangement I shall  
be glad, but I say to you, in all seriousness, I must be  
relieved, substantially, of all responsibilities & labors except those  
I engaged to assume when I came here.

Yours truly,  
A. A. Phelps.

Mr. R. G. Williams

84 Pearl St.

Please send it down  
soon.

A. A. Phelps, to  
R. G. Williams

Dec 15/45