

Copy

Written Sept. 2, 1839

Mr. Emerson

Dear Sir

I notice in the Appendix to a  
book of scandal, entitled "Fights among our Massachusetts," recently  
published, a letter of mine, which, so far as I can recollect, was  
written to you, about the time it was decided that Mr. Holmes  
was to leave you. The letter was written, not with any injen-  
tions of secrecy to be sure, but with the unguarded famil-  
-iarity & frankness of personal friendships, ~~and therefore~~ with  
no expectation of its publication. I am sure it contains nothing  
in the way of fact or statement which I am not fully prepa-  
re to sustain before the public, & which is not strictly true. If con-  
were any good or important end to be gained by it, I should  
not object a moment to its publication, had its publication  
been properly sought. — I say "properly sought" — for it is a  
rule with me not to publish letters addressed to me pers-  
-onally, even where there is no injunction of confidence, without  
at least consulting the writer in respect to it. Nor do I deem  
it, either honorable or Christian in any one to ~~publish~~  
~~do otherwise~~ in regard to letters from me. And I am  
surprised then, when without the least intimation of the thing  
from you, I find my letter to you given to the public — &  
the more so, when the letter contains some things in respect  
to the ~~the~~ supply for your desk, which to one ignorant  
of the individual named, or the character of your church  
& people, are capable of being misunderstood & perverted, ~~for~~  
as they actually have been by my enemies. If ~~you~~ the letter  
was published by your consent & direction I know not by what

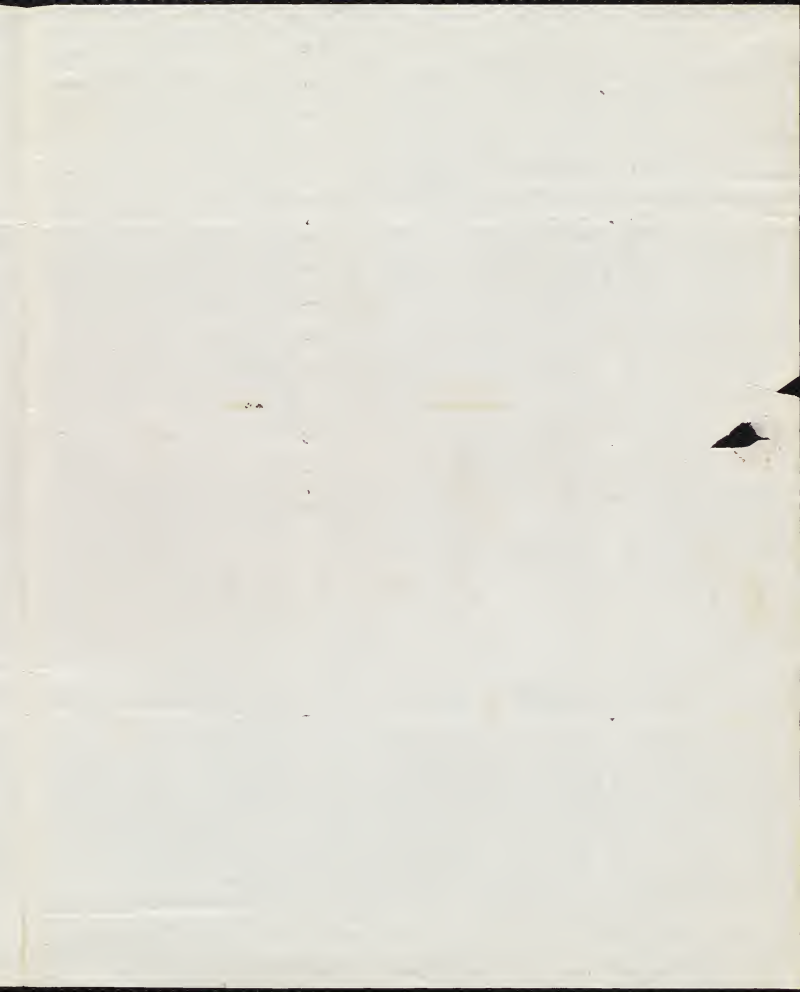
Ms. A. 9. 2. 18. 24

although the names of persons & places are omitted. As it is,  
I can hardly believe that you were accessory to the publica-  
tion, or if you were that some means were taken to in-  
duce your consent which were far from honorable in  
those who used them.

I write this then to inquire first how the letter came  
to be published, without seeking my consent, or giving me  
any intimation of the fact, or of the reasons for it? And,  
second, to say, that as any individual or individuals  
who would publish such a letter, in the manner stated,  
(omitting names & places, & giving no clue to the circumstances  
of the case, <sup>not</sup> adverted to), ~~might~~ <sup>might</sup> also make ~~any~~ other alter-  
-ations or omissions which might suit their purpose, I  
will thank you, if you have it in your possession, to  
return me the original letter, at your earliest con-  
-venience.

Yours &c.

A. A. Phelps.



Paid - Box 283.  
A. S. P.

PAID



Dea. Emerson,  
(Teacher)

New Bedford,  
Mass.