

Lewis Tappan - May 17, 1844. New York, May 17/44.

Rev. A. A. Phelps
Boston

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Dear Brother,

Your letter of the 4th was duly received. I read it with great pleasure. The suggestions contained in it are very valuable. Many thanks for your faithful letter to the Sec. of the Tract Soc. It would have been sinful in you to have neglected such a golden opportunity to diminish rebate.

Last evening, at a meeting of the Committee, I read your letter, & it gave much satisfaction to the brethren.

I see nothing in your letter that I do not fully understand & approve. Many of the suggestions have frequently been made by me often.

When we separated from the Garrison party we began well, but the Liberty party soon drew off 3/4 of those on whom I had relied, and the new Soc. remained high & dry. We have done a little, but it has fallen to me to do nearly all that has been done. Editing the Reporter has been very burdensome to me, so that for the past year it has been suspended, except an occasional Extra with Miss's matter. I have always felt the necessity of keeping up this journal, have seen its importance here & abroad, have known that it was easy to sustain it, either by subscription or from private donations. I intended in business, as I am, and with so many things, connected with the Society, to attend to the Reporter. It is more than I could to keep up my correspondence in my office and with my friends & the friends of the anti-S. cause. The A. S. A. Soc. need a Sec. & Editor.

The Union Missy Soc. (by this or some other name) needs a Secretary & Editor. Dr. Loford recommended, after you declined, Mr. R. Tucker of the, late of Sandwick Islands. Mr. T. being here this week, we have conversed with him on the subject. He is a valuable man, a good thinker & writer, but not quick, as either. He might be induced to come, but I am not sure he is the right man, at least for both offices. He thinks some of being in Boston on the anniversary week with Dr. Loford. If he goes there I hope you will see how wise with him. With the exception of Mr. Andrews he was, I suppose, the ablest among the miscellaneous & was probably the best writer of them all. He goes to preach for Dr. Hays' people next Sabbath.

(over)

[I am much impressed with the thought, brother Phelps, that you ought to give up your pastoral charge & trust agency, and come on here to edit the Reporter & Union Missionaries, & be the Secretary of the latter Soc. if not of both. You shall have fifteen hundred dollars salary, to be paid monthly or quarterly, with perpetuity. I will guaranty it to you if you will agree to help me, devoting all your time & energies to the work. My business is now good, & it appears to be permanent. One difficulty with Secretaries has been that the receipt of their salaries was uncertain. You shall not incur risk or have trouble on that score. You can get a snug place at Brooklyn, which is a healthy ~~place~~ town, and we can have a room fitted up for an office in the building in which my office is. Think of this, my dear Sir, and pray over it. I am satisfied you can do a vast deal more good that you can as you now are. And the better here I can be of service to you. If you choose I will pay your expenses here & back to you were about this subject.]

Let this be confidential & write to me soon.

Very truly yours,

Ellis Tappan.

Will you recommend your friends to the "New England Home" 111 Broadway, "conducted upon Temperance Principles".

You could, if you undertake the Secretaryship, be Sec. of the A. S. Soc. or of the Union M. Soc., or of both. In the former case you could do the labour in the name of the committee.

[I should not advise you to break up your present arrangements, and remove here, for any temporary object, or where the prospect of success or support was uncertain. Sometimes I have thought of relinquishing my business, & devoting my whole time to the objects named above, but it is obvious that the interest of the cause would be promoted by my laboring to earn money, in part for the support of another man who could devote his whole time to them. You might, it is true, edit the Reporter - after a fashion - in Boston to be published here, but preparing the editorial matter is only a

a part of the useful labor. Connected with the Reporter it is often necessary to prepare documents, issue Extras, publish other papers & pamphlets, prepare articles for the Commercial press &c. For example, I have lately brought into the J. of Commerce & Commercial considerable matter, the preparation of which requires time & labour. I got Theo. Seligman to write a series of essays on the annexation of Texas, published in the E. Post, & since in a pamphlet. All this has cost much labour on my part. [I mention these things to show that a person here, wholly devoted to such objects, could find the means & the opportunity of doing a vast deal of good - good as I can accomplish fully & only by fits and starts.

We ought to keep up an active correspondence with brethren in England & France, & be doing something all the time in furtherance of the anti-S. cause in this country. If then, you will come here, I will make it part of my business to see that your salary is punctually paid & that means are obtained to carry on the work specified. [If you decline we must hobble along as we have hitherto done.]

East Boston
Webster Street
Rev. A. A. Phelps,



Boston.

F. Johnson
May 17. 1844.

