

& recitations. This is Lynch Law in Oberlin. I shall lift
my voice against it. Your lot would be excommunication,
if Mahan should come to Boston, & get the
control of your church members. You may be sure
of this. I shall publish soon unless the Trustees eat
every word they have uttered against me. When I have
finished my vindication, I mean to review the views
of Mahan & Finney more fully than it has been
done yet.

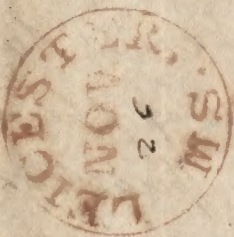
Paid 60

Rev. Amos A. Phelps

Boston

Ms.

Mr. Cowles to write his
defense & his review of
this sent in Ct. Observer
Sunday, Aug 1st.



The newspapers have told us the story of your transition
from a widowed to a married state. My wife & daughter
unite with me in kind regards to you & yours.

Please to call at 3 Beacon St & let Mr. & Mrs.
Safford understand this case - see the letter perhaps.
They are very dear friends of ours & we have not time
to write them at present.

Very truly yours J. P. Cowles

counteracted; others might stay, he would not. So you see
the question was shall we ask him to resign, or lose Mr.
Finney? I have much more evidence to the same point.
The students five to one, are loud in their denunciations
of the Trustees, and the remaining part object only to things
in me connected with classical study & perfectionism,
and only here & there a single instance of something or
other even of that sort. I am getting testimony, & think
I shall vindicate myself in the papers. The Faculty
besides Br. Mahan, were strongly opposed to the action
of the Trustees - though some of them have not acted
uprightly in the matter, I mean one or two. Br. Henry
said the morning after the action of the Trustees, that
if they did not rescind & abandon the principles on which
they had acted he would not move a peg more in the
machine. Dr. Davenport told Mr. Shepherd, that if the Trust-
ees were going to carry out Mahan's views of classical
study, they ^{would} ~~had~~ but ^{have} begun their work when they
had made me resign. Others say they know not what
will go next. Only eight of thirteen trustees were present,
and four of these are uneducated farmers, some of
whom cannot spell correctly, & all peopled with
the very narrowest views. I have no fear for the issue,
as to myself. No labor was ever performed with
me by any committee of the Trustees, though one
was appointed for the purpose of seeing me & the
rest of the Faculty. You may mention the facts &
make what use of them you please. These men unthink-
ingly assume that they are right in every thing - & if
you differ you are deficient in spirituality, & your
moral influence is deleterious, & without trial you
must be shipped off. I never was called before the
Trustees; nor had any, the slightest communication
with them, except on Saturday Oct 19, ^{when} Mr. Shepherd
called on me for two or three hours, & their action was
on Oct 21 on which day I never saw one of them until
they handed me their unanimous request that I
should resign. During the whole of that day I was
without suspension engaged in my ordinary studies &

propriate fruits - spiritual pride, censoriousness, extraordinary impulses & bodily prostrations. Bro. Geo. N. Allen, whom you may have seen in B. last winter, not long since, in a mixed prayer meeting of young men & women where all prayed, fell from his seat to the floor. Immediately the whole company set up such a shouting & clapping of hands, that one of the then senior College students, rooming in the College forty or fifty rods distant, was stunned, & went to see what was the matter. He met one of the professors, a rational man, at the door, who told him not to go in. That professor, Dr. Dascombe, is the only one besides myself, that has shown any disposition to take decided ground against these absurdities.

It is about five months, since I first ~~took~~ publicly took ground decidedly against the notions of Bro. McMan & Finney, since which time I have preached several sermons, & in private & in my classes have endeavoured to stem the vital current, at the same time that I have tried to show where the brethren here agree with others.

The result of this, together with the stand I have taken on classical study, and partial defence of the Education Society, dietetics &c. has just resulted in the Trustees requesting me to resign, which I have done. I asked them for a written statement of the reasons, & they gave me two, though I know others. One of the two was, "a great & manifest deficiency in the exhibition of a Christian spirit & influence, as witnessed by my daily associates, & acknowledged by my warmest friends; such a deficiency, as in the opinion of the Board, disqualifies me for a professorship in the Theological Department." In almost every solitary instance, I have found, in my investigation into the charge of deficiency, that it has reference to the stand I have taken about the perfectionism here, or to classical study, or the union of the sexes, or dietetics - or the manner & spirit of my opposition. They strenuously deny that it is perfection that has made the breach. But Mr. Finney has said that he could not stay here & have his efforts to promote holiness

Prof. J. P. Bowles

Oberlin, Oct 29, 1839.

Dear Brother Phelps,

I received yours a little time since, but felt the delicacy of asking Bro. Mahan the requisite questions so much, that it was not till the other day, that I performed the duty. He said, he had been written to, to go to Boston the next winter. I inquired, by whom? He said he believed Mr. Campbell & Mr. Walker were the principal ones. I asked whether they wrote as individuals, or in behalf of your Church. He said, as individuals. Next I put the question whether he could remember any others, besides Messrs C. & W. After a little hesitation, and somewhat unwillingly, he said, he thought they were all. (Your letter to him, as he will doubtless inform you, miscarried; so that he & Mrs Mahan have been expecting to go to Boston & to carry all before them. I was not aware of its miscarriage, however, and did not know certainly of his calculations, until Bro. Mahan, last Saturday, received another letter from you, which was his first intimation, that he was not wanted in Boston. He talked largely, last spring, on his return, of what he should be able to accomplish in Boston the next winter— and he has given out that he expected to secure the endowment of all the professorships, & money enough to build a young ladies' boarding house besides. He was partly sustained in this, by a letter to him from Mr. Campbell, in which the latter stated, that he had seen a letter written to you by Mrs. Mahan; saying you would receive him with open arms &c.) You will lose nothing by his not coming to Boston. He has ridden his hobby during the summer constantly, and would doubtless ride it there. The notions of Bro. Mahan & Finney are bringing forth their ap-