

Paid
A Howe

Rev A. A. Phelps

Boston

Mass

am at liberty to do as I like -
yours in great haste
Appletan How

Rev A. A. Phelps



Society & overthrow. While Ladies have
ever been foremost in the works of benevo-
lence & humanity it is very unkind &
against their council, while we solicit their
money. To say, that they should be silent
in the presence of gentlemen, argues more
aristocracy of feeling than is consistent,
with what I consider Orthodoxy in ~~the~~ Abolition
~~Cause~~. It is a species of Gag law unworthy
of those whose object is to make all men
free & I hope, for the consistency & pro-
pensity of our common cause, that it may
be Abolished. These are my views in
brief, in regard to the question of "Women's rights"
but believing as I do in the importance
of a Society which recognizes the right
of political action, & which gives no counte-
nance to the "No Government Theory", I shall
not make these objections paramount: and
if my name as a Vice President of your
Society can ~~add~~ be of any use to the cause
in which we are mutually engaged you

South Weymouth June 25. 1839

Appleton Howe

Dear Sir

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Yours of recent date inform-
ing me of an appointment as one of the
Vice Presidents of the Mass. Abolition
Society has been rec^d & I take the con-
sistent opportunity to reply. I regret exceed-
ingly that it should be thought important
or expedient to exclude Ladies from
the business meetings of the Society. This
to me does not seem fair or equal -
Gentlemen may be represented, but
Ladies cannot be, except by a gentle-
man! If it be important to enlist the
influence of Ladies, they should not
be excluded from any meetings of the
Society, or debarred from any of its privi-
leges. It seems to me that the course
pursued savours a little too much of that
spirit which is the object of the