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Rev Amos A Phelps

Livingston

1834

Hartford June 30.

Rev. J. S. Hays Esq.

are engaged ~~with~~ <sup>word</sup> not be addressed by a complete  
answer with your request to open my check for  
you on 4<sup>th</sup> July. In this I may be mistaken;  
but I hope I judge under the influence of  
a second regard for duty and true love for the  
unhappy being enslaved in this boasted land  
of freedom. Should you pass through this city  
I should be much gratified to see you. Please  
directly to my home.

Affectionately yours

J. Hays

<sup>question</sup>  
~~It is~~ for a public discussion of the subject.

I am in doubt on another point. You would doubtless be able to present the cause in a more full and conclusive light than I could, being better acquainted with it. Still yet I am rather inclined to think that it would be better for me to bring the subject forward than to call in any assistance at present however able.

Such at any rate are my views in relation to this matter that I cannot see my way clear to comply with your request. I have no fear of your orthodoxy, nor any that you will not speak in the "spirit of light and love". I have read your book and with all its leading doctrines I fully agree; and yet for the reasons above named and some others of minor weight which I might mention I think that this quite a good cause in which I again trust you

48  
Hartford Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 1834.

My dear Brother,  
On my arrival home  
this afternoon I found two notes from yourself  
and I take the earliest moment to reply.  
I am not accustomed to shrink from what  
I know to be duty, and though I cannot doubt  
that bringing forward the subject of abolition  
among my people at this time would raise  
a breeze, still were I satisfied that it would best  
subserve the cause, I would unhesitatingly say  
to you come. But on this point I am much  
in doubt. There is here an extreme sensitiv-  
ness on that subject. My sentiments are  
generally known, I make no concealment of  
them; and the way is proper, I have no