

PAID

1834

Rev. A. A. Lepp

Boston

Massachusetts



the importance of recommending, and, if you please, of adopting
the proposed change, there would be a very great increase
in the purity, consistency and power of the abolitionism of the
country.

Your suggestion in favor of an organization, comprising
voters only, does not strike me favorably. I cannot see
a sufficient reason for incumbering ourselves with the ma-
chinery of two organizations. It may perhaps be said that
the adoption of the change proposed by myself would pro-
duce two organizations. For a short time only. The present
organization would fall before it as surely as the old wine
drinking Societies, fell before the new tee total Societies - as
fatally ~~and necessarily~~ as Dagon fell before the ark of the Lord.

Nor can I agree with you in the necessity of having
a new weekly Anti Slavery Paper in Boston. It would encroach
on the patronage of the Liberator - and you and I both love that
honest, admirable paper, and our dear brother Garrison too well
to take pleasure in such an effect. I think however, that it would
be well for your State Society to establish a monthly paper of the
size of Human Rights, and to make its leading object the in-
culcation of fidelity at the polls to the cause of the perishing slave.

With great regard
Yr friend and brother

Rev. A. A. Phelps.

Henry C. Wright

neither manufacture nor traffic in intoxicating liquors? The principle laid down in the Constitution of the Temperance Society, that the drinking of such liquors is pernicious and morally wrong, obviously forbids such manufacture and traffic.

The objection to the proposed change in the Constitution arising from the fact, that persons "in Paidea Co." broke their pledge amounts to nothing. Such of these persons, as should repent of their error, we would be glad to receive into the new Societies. The others we would not want, and they would not apply for admission. They would see, that their treachery and that of others like them was the occasion of the formation of the new Societies; and they would not be willing ~~then~~ to sanction ^{their own} condemnation, by joining the new Societies.

My deep conviction is, that such a change, as I propose, will take place pretty rapidly in one locality after another - and that our cause will make very little progress where this or an equivalent change does not take place. Genuine abolitionists cannot, will not, work in the same harness with sham abolitionists.

Should the Mass. Anti Slavery Society, at its approaching Anniversary Meeting, recommend this change, I doubt not that it would be generally adopted within six months. Will they not recommend it? In a recent letter to Mr Libolt, which will perhaps be read before the Anti Slavery Convention that is to be assembled in the City of New York next month, I have taken the liberty to express the hope that the Convention will recommend it. If your Society should recommend it, and should appoint a suitable person to spend one year in carrying the recommendation into effect, I should be pleased to have the Society draw on me (and this letter would be their authority for doing so) for (\$ 500) Five hundred dollars of his salary. If you or H.B. Stanton or Wendell Phillips could spend one year in writing on this and kindred subjects and in attending Meetings of State and County Anti Slavery Societies in New-England and New York, and impressing upon such Societies

Peterboro December 28 1838

Gerrit Smith Esq.

PHELPS
MSS.

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My dear brother Phelps

I thank you for your letter - and deeply regret, that an unusual pressure of ever pressing business compels me to be much more brief and hasty in my answer than I should like to be.

By the new organization, which I propose, I mean nothing more than that the true-hearted abolitionists do organize Societies in their respective localities, having a Constitution of the usual form, with the simple addition of a provision, that the members shall not vote for proslavery Candidates. The provision might be expressed in some such words as the following. "The members of this Society solemnly promise, that they will withhold their votes from all candidates for law makers, who are unwilling to declare themselves in favor of the immediate abolition of all political distinctions, which are grounded on a difference in the complexion of men, or who are unwilling to declare themselves in favor of the immediate abolition of slavery in this State (in this State would be proper for a Society in Pennsylvania or New York, though not in Massachusetts perhaps), in the District of Columbia, and throughout the world." I would have these new Societies declare themselves auxiliary to our present State and National Societies - and I would have the State and National Societies recommend this new organization. A new organization would not be needed, where the members of a local Society were all in favor of inserting in the Constitution the aforesaid provision.

I send you by the enclosed a copy of a ~~bill~~ containing ~~new~~ a section inserted in ~~the~~ a ~~new~~ Constitution. The proposed change in the Constitution is not the addition of a ~~simple~~ new principle. It is but the specification of a duty, which to our minds, is obviously dictated by the principles and spirit of the Constitution, as it is. And why is not such a specification as defensible and as necessary, as is the declaration in the Constitution of a Temperance Society - that the members shall