

I have copied the petition sent to
Congress in 1838 and the Names, for future
use. If you want them I will send them
to you — I am very Sincerely Yours
J. Bigelow

J. S. W. Green is about to remove his
printing Office to the ^{old} Medical College
taking the whole Building — There is a large
Room in it where we might organize a
New Cong^o. Church out of the "Dissecession"
at least in one particular, where the
Church shall not sell its members as
Judas sold its Head J. B.

J. Bigelow,
Washington, D. C.
Feb. 27. 1846.

Very sincerely
I have a copy
of the old petition
I will send it
to you.

For Mr. W. B.

to the Police or Military it is believed would
secure their protection

7th It is now, surely, too late to look for
obstructions in transmitting papers by the Mails

8th The paper shall have my name (if a
better is not found here, but I think there may be)
in any form the Committee may desire. But

9th I cannot now assume the real proprietorship

10th I will cheerfully and gladly do any thing in my
power to advance this cause which may be con-
sistent with other unavoidable engagements

I commonly go to the North for a few weeks
in the Summer but while here at home, will serve
your Committee in making bargains & disbursements in
all cases where I can do so to their advantage

When Absent I intend to have my partner here
You know he is a Marylander and as hearty ~~as I~~
in the cause as myself else we could not agree
or "walk together"

I applied to Gates & Scaton but found they
were refusing other similar work and refused this without
knowing its character. Gideon also declines it

The printers here say the work can be done for
the estimates made in our Office while you were here

I have volunteered to advise that it be a "Liberty
Paper" chiefly because Liberty men now in the field
will probably be its chief supporters and they will
expect & perhaps require it to be so

I will here add that I don't believe any man
has fully estimated the importance and value of such
a paper here, to our cause. Its influence on the
daily action of Congress. There is much in having ^{it} done
here on the spot. Showing their action from day to day
they will feel it

The other two are Brothers in law, own real estate both were Apprentices of Gales & Seaton, one a Native of the District the other from Mass^{ts}. — Either or both would identify themselves with such a paper on reasonable terms gladly, but neither have means to spare. All three are temperance men, and all assure me that there would be no lack of printers here.

3. W^m Green, would contract to print the paper a year and "risk the storm" but I repeat his lack of energy I did agree with Ulysses Ward to print it. He is a Minister of the Prot. Meth. Church, a Lumber Merchant, Editor & Proprietor of the "Columbian Fountain" a daily Temp. paper, a very Rich & very good man — But his Wife & (I suspect) Rev. S. Dewey frightened him out of it — He is afraid!

4. The number of White men who would sign a paper recommending such a thing could only be known by great labor — This I would take, but for one discouragement, Our Citizens are Whigs or Democrats. The former would sign in great numbers if you will promise to speak well of their party & abuse the "Locas" while the latter would do the same, reversing the conditions. Mr Giddings alone says have it independent of all parties, while I am with the few who say go the "Liberty party".

There are some 23 Members of Congress who know the right & "approve it too," but are in the party harness. Our Citizens require to be taught & reconverted even many who think themselves Anti Slavery; Still both the Members of Congress and Citizens consider the Intelligencer too "dough faced" on the subject of Slavery, and even now there is some talk of a New Whig organ here solely for this reason.

5. You cannot rely on us for funds. I will give something

6. There are some Old & Shameful laws but they are regarded as obsolete. My friends think with me that nothing need be apprehended from them. A reasonable application

Washington D. C.

February 27th 1820

Rev. A. A. Phelps

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My Dear Sir

Your letter of 30 Ult^o with interrogatories in relation to the Establishment of a paper would have been promptly answer'd but for Sickness which rendered me unable to do even my own pressing business. Altho it would be impossible to answer all your questions with precision, even after much investigation — I know how important the information would be to your Committee, and will now give as definitely as I can, a reply if not an answer to your several questions in their order

1st "The number of known Abolitionists in the District, their names, situation in life &c" cannot now be given. There lays before me a petition presented to Congress in March 1828 signed by between 10 & 1100 (I make 1058) citizens, asking for the abolition of Slavery in the District (gradual it is true) but it presents the most revolting instances of the Cruelties of the System, and the petitioners say they "blush for their Country while they relate them &c" they are of all classes in Society — The System continues, and altho no doubt many are dead & many may have removed, it may be presumed that other hearts that feel, have taken their places and may be found among us

2. There are as I am assured by two of the number a great many Anti Slavery printers here — They say, three quarters of the journeymen are such. Those known to me are W^m Greer (Doc) Martin Buell & W^m Blanchard (Whig) all of them would give up party for this Cause, — Either would take hold of such a paper. The first owns a house ^{however} a press & good office, but I fear would lack energy