

PAID

*BT*



Rev. A. A. Phelps  
East Boston

*Maple*



to itself and the world if brought (as it might be)  
into a position to become so

We also have a great many New England families  
here brought up as Congregationalists and still preferring  
that form of Govt. but who, not being Clonish, have  
yielded to the prevailing Presbyterian and Methodist  
forms, where they now worship. There is no  
Evangelical Cong<sup>o</sup> Church in the place!

One word more — A Church here, which "dare be  
Honest in these worst of times" "opening its mouth for  
the dumb" as it may be thought to do, would quickly — yet  
right quickly, loosen the galling Manacle under which so many  
are now groaning in this district — O for help to do it!

O for good Counsel! O for that  
wisdom from Above which would lead  
to so desirable a result —!

I want to see you more now than ever  
I want you to help plan the way. — Shall you not be  
here? When will you come?

I have written James T. Dickinson to day on this  
same Subject merely because he is an intimate friend  
but no one else

I am with great respect

Very Sincerely Yours

J. Bigelow

On the whole I am fully of the mind that the right way will be to Make an entire New Church of Such as think as we do And there must be very many — With this view a few friends who know the Citizens better than I do are now aiding me to make out a list of Such of our inhabitants as come from the land of the Pilgrims and are most likely to Aid in the undertaking

I know there is much work to be done but am very Sure that great success & great good, will follow — I have looked about for a lot to build upon — Good lots can be had — No other will do

On Saturday the 2<sup>d</sup> of November the "National Theatre" will be sold at Auction! I rejoice to say that such Stock, even here is had — I am assured by one likely to know that it will not probably bring more than the Bricks Cost — I think it was built about 7 or 8 years ago; It is on Pin<sup>e</sup> Avenue in a very good place and if I had had sufficient notice of the Sale, I would certainly have bought it if sold so low as is anticipated. It is about 75 feet in front by 140 deep Handsomely elevated with Grand Columns in front, the interior I never saw, There is the most ample Room in front for Coaches &c and 7 feet on each side of the building — The title will be good, And I suppose any amount of credit may be had upon it on paying interest promptly — [See Intelligencer]

There is in this City some half dozen Congregations tromping up and down the Streets on Sundays and who attend no meetings — There is also a vast amount of material in other forms which might be made useful

J. Bigelow, Esq.

Washington D. C.

Oct. 25, 1844

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Rev. Dear Sir

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My anxiety to see the organization of the first Congregational Church in this National Man-Market, has in no degree abated since my return home, and I have met no single thing to discourage me in the undertaking & on the contrary every person to whom I have made the suggestion strongly encourages me to go on.

There is a Pres.<sup>n</sup> Church here (Rev. Mr. Knox's) whose congregation is small and the House now under repairs — I am persuaded many — perhaps a majority would change their seat to ours at a word — But it won't do, however small a dissenting minority might be, a perpetual uneasiness might be troublesome — Their House is too small and in the wrong place.

There is also a Protestant Methodist Society here, rather few in numbers, but of much piety with a House that will hold 1000 (close packed) also too small (I think) but in a better place 9th Street.

They have already strongly entertained the idea of making it a Cong.<sup>o</sup> Church and I fully believe from what leading members say to me that there would be no difficulty in changing its government. Still one of the objections at least, already named, might come up in this case — a few might want their own seats to be