

The first...

[Faint, illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

110
Wm Reed (accept)

Haunton June 17th 1839

A. A. Phelps

Rev. Secy.

Rev^d Dear Sir,

Your note of . . . date has been received, and I can only say that, altho' I feel myself flattered in being named as one of the officers of the Mass. Abolition Society, yet I cannot but doubt that wisdom which dictated such a selection. For notwithstanding I feel willing to do whatever is consistent to be done by me, to further the objects of the society, yet lest I might raise expectations which may never be realized, I must say that I shall not be able to render much service, either by my presence or in a pecuniary way. In moderate circumstances, with a numerous family, whose claims must be met, I find myself unable to render that aid to the benevolent enterprises of this time, which they claim. I therefore think you might do much better for the society, by selecting some other person to supply my place: Should it however be thought best you may still retain my name. Hoping & believing that the new organization will accelerate the great anti-slavery cause, and that no root of bitterness may spring up among its members, I subscribe myself yours in the fellowship of the Gospel

William Reed