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50

30.96
41.48
38.44
30

17
FEB 3
B.I.

P

Rev A. A. Phelps
Providence

PP

meic. ch No 50-1. B.S.B.

47/6.
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17/6
30.
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80
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95

47/6
18.
1.50
71.66



perhaps I ought to say that I should have written you
sooner on this subject but I have thought it possible that I
might be in Providence during the sitting of the convention
circumstances refused my being in ~~the~~ Providence yesterday
and I could not stay over night: you will therefore speak
the best to some.

on this great and important subject, a Society which should
have the same object in view viz the ultimate abolition
of Slavery - but which should pursue somewhat different
means to accomplish that end, to such a Society I should
refuse to become united, but I am not prepared at
present to adopt all the principles of immediate emancipa-
tionists or to approve of all the means used by them. I
did not discover my mistake until I received some sheets
from Mr Stanton having the name of the individuals who
had signed the call. when I discovered for the first time that
my name had gone abroad as an immediate emancipationist
I wish to correct this mistake, because I do not wish to
seem to be what I really am not, and because I do not wish
to be numbered among the friends of immediate emancipation
when I cannot enter heart and soul into all its principles
I lean you see fit to make such use of this explanation as
you may think due to me and to the cause of truth and wishing
you to enjoy much of the spirit of him who went abroad doing
good and much of their wisdom that cometh from above to quicken
you and make you eminently useful in the cause of him you profess
to serve I remain your brother in Christ

Benjamin A Bowen

B. J. Bowers

Dorchester MS February 2^d 1836

6
Rev. & Dear Sir

I feel it my duty to state to you that I
have been led to mistake the object for which a convention
has been called and I suppose in New Bedford in Providence
I was not aware that by giving you my name for calling
a convention I was also declaring myself in favour
of immediate emancipation. you will recollect that
I did not see ^{the} paper to which you affixed my name and the
reason I did not ask the privilege of seeing it was - I thought
I was perfectly acquainted with the object - some weeks
since a friend sent me a paper - to which he wished me
to procure the names of such of my fellow citizens as felt disposed
to give them for the purpose of calling a convention in this
State to form an Anti Slavery Society - whether I examined the
paper particularly at the time or not I do not recollect -
certainly it did some parts of it excited my notice - but
somehow I gained the impression that it was merely a call
for a convention as I have above stated - without reference to
any Society now existing - such a Society I expected was about
to be formed in this State - a Society which would take a middle
ground