

with you & me on the subject of Slavery. but who are yet yearning  
for some more unexceptionable plan of Missionary operation than we now  
enjoy. The anti-slavery feature of an organization would be no objection  
to such minds, but yet they would demand something else. It seems to  
me therefore, that this feeling should not be overlooked in any such at-  
tempt as we are now contemplating. And I have accomplished my

Paris

PAID

Rev. A. A. Phelps

East Boston

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object if I have directed your mind to what I mean in what I have  
now said. I am confident that no one who duly estimates the difficul-  
ties attending the formation & sustaining a pure missionary organization  
will be unmindful of anything that will give strength to the movement  
& diminish the chances of ultimate defeat. Excuse me for the liberty  
I have taken—  
Yours truly  
Samuel Hunt.

as many elements of power as <sup>is</sup> possible to be found in the existing state of public sentiment & feeling. For failure in your enterprise would not only bring discredit to the cause of Anti Slavery but - thro' the demerit <sup>of</sup> feeling again monument would create - weakness & injury to the cause of Missions itself.

There is another element of power in the democratic tendencies of the day & of our community - I refer to the antipathy which <sup>great numbers</sup> ~~every one~~ must have to the "close corporation" feature of the Board. There is nothing in that which can have more it seems to write the peculiar taste of our people, when they come to be fully understood. One great item of strength which the Board now possess is the ignorance of the character of its real character & management. - But I need not dwell upon that point. You know already that of it.

There is another element of power, which a new organization might appropriate to itself, if the Providence of God should make it plain that a new organization should be formed. And I may say that it is to direct my mind to its contemplation that I have troubled you with this letter. It is a spirit of dissatisfaction which exists in many minds & which is extending, in view of the aristocratic bearing of the Board in its general management & the high salaries that are paid to its officers. The particular train of thought I have dwelt upon during the past two or three years has led me to examine the feature of their management more particularly & to become acquainted with the feelings of many who are interested in the highest prospects of the Cause. And my conviction is strong that there is an increasing number who are distressed in view of what they see & know upon this subject; & who are looking with desires to see the Board make some change in this matter, or else to some new monument & plan by the action of which so much share of the funds contribute shall not be absorbed before they leave the country. I think there is a large number of this description, who may not sympathize very strongly

ness of age I has long been the welcome visitant to the friends of  
the only "salt" of New England. The necessity condemned of this and  
other reasons is the fact, that it has come to occupy not only the place  
of the accustomed (I then is power in that very word) organ of the Church  
but there has gathered around it a kind of sacerdotalism, which is hardly,  
second, in the mind of many, to the divinely instituted ordinances of  
Religion itself. I was never more struck with that fact than I  
was at Worcester last September. This feeling any new organization  
will not only not have on its side; but it will have it to some extent  
arrayed against it. It will be very hard therefore for any new society  
to supplant the Board; or make <sup>much</sup> headway by its side, with all this peculiar  
sanctity on the side of the latter, with the great array of "D.D.'s & Hon." of  
which it can boast. There is also another fact of which there can be  
little dispute, that, the anti-slavery feeling of the Church is more peculiarly  
anti-slavery than missionary in its character; & therefore, while it will  
steadfastly & warmly oppose any league with slavery, it will, at the  
same time, when this necessity of opposition is removed by an organi-  
zation ~~from which~~ <sup>without this</sup> this obnoxious feature ~~is removed~~ be more liable to  
have its benevolent & philanthropic impulses absorbed by a regard for  
an "heaven at home" than to enter enthusiastically & untiringly upon the  
great & momentous work of evangelizing the millions of heathen  
abroad. I allude to this as a probable fact to be duly considered  
by those who <sup>are</sup> about to commit themselves to an enterprise that needs  
so much principle & grace & perseverance as the missionary enter-  
prise. These considerations likewise make it evident, that the expedi-  
ency of making out a good & strong case before you go to the Chris-  
tian public for their sympathy & support, while at the same time  
it should be an object of anxious solicitude to array in your behalf

Rev. Mr. Hunt,

Natick Feb. 7. 1845.

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9 Rev & Dear Sir -

I met Bro Webster of Hopkinton the other day & he informed me, that it was ~~talked of having a convention~~ in contemplation to have a Missionary Convention in New York with reference to a new missionary organization, at least if the American Board could not be induced to take a more decided ground against Slavery. In connection with this subject your name was mentioned as being particularly interested in the movement in question. From this intimation & the fact that my mind has been particularly interested in the subject of mission, with particular reference to the temper & embarrassed operations of the Board for the past few years, I have ventured to address you, altho almost a stranger, to offer some suggestions that have forced themselves upon my mind.

My first remark in this connection would therefore be that it is a very important movement & one that should not be made without the most urgent necessity. The Am. Board has occupied a most interesting relation to the piety & missionary spirit of the church of an denomination. It was a pioneer in this country of that good cause which has enlisted so much of the sympathy & pious feelings of the wise & good of the land. It is rushing in the most sacred recesses of the hearts of those that have prayed ~~most earnestly~~ <sup>with the</sup> with the most earnest cry: "Thy Kingdom come". The Missionary Herald has all the venerable