

Asa Hand's

Caveat

Boston Aug 20 30

1832

Northam. N^o

Sept 3

PAID

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Rev. Amos Phelps -

Care of Mr. E. ~~Amos~~ Hopkinton

Mass.

Care of Deacon Hitchcock }

Mass.

^{of the church}
The number in the minority, known to me, is 8 -
viz. Messrs. Lamson, Bunstead, Kespinger, Carpenter,
J. Edwards, Kollock, Barry, & Rand. - Some of these
probably do not sympathise with me strongly in
regard to doctrinal views - some of them do -
I believe we are of one mind, with regard
to the other ^{points which I have} remarked on. The ascertained num-
ber in the majority is 25 - - and the opinions
of these others is unknown to me - making
36, which I believe is the whole number of
acting male members now ~~to~~ residing in the
city. - There are 3 of the above 8 with whom I
have not exchanged a word on the
subject. - ~~I have attended~~

I repeat, that matters of this sort are better
treated of in private conversation, & I shall be happy
to have such opportunity when you return,
whether your answer to the church shall
be given before or not. Whatever you may ^{do}
with their invitation, I believe this ^{do}
disclosure of my ^{views} feelings will be received with
the same frankness and good feeling which I
am conscious of indulging. I write simply for
myself, without concert with the brethren -
and you may, if you please, regard the commu-
nication as intended for your own eye &
ear alone -

Affectionately yours -

Asa Rand.

deficient in solemnity,unction,^y direct, pungent application to the conscience and the heart. The same general remark, so far as applicable to devotional exercises, may be made respecting those services. I should fear, that your ministrations would soon be found too dry and unfeeling, to gather and preserve a congregation in our circumstances; and to seize hold on careless sinners & bring them to the cross.

You are aware that I entertain different views from yourself, on some points that are of the highest practical moment to a minister's usefulness — as well as ~~for~~ important in the christian system of truths, because they have their influence at that most critical period, when the sinner is inquiring what he shall do to be saved, & ~~to~~ when he is beginning to think he has passed from death unto life. I do not undertake to decide who is right, much less to say that any one is in fatal error; but, with my present views, I think it would be unhappy to have the ^{direction} ~~conducting~~ of inquirers &c. made ^{conducted} among us on the principles which I understand you to adopt.

I do not, my dear Sir, doubt your piety, your activity, or your possession of sufficient talents, if rightly employed, to be very useful in the ministry of the word. My doubts respect the spirituality, solidity, & efficiency of your ministrations in such a position as this, where so much is to be done, and so many obstacles are to be encountered.

Boston, Aug. 30, 1832.

Rev. & Dear Sir--

You have doubtless been informed, that several members of Pine St. Church were in the negative, when the late election took place, the result of which was communicated to you; and that I was one of that number. As I wish ever to act with the utmost frankness, I intended to take an early opportunity to converse with you and state ~~the~~ reasons for my vote. Before I could command sufficient time, I unexpectedly learned that you had left town & were not expected to return till you give your answer to the church. - I am therefore induced to trouble you with a line, as the best substitute for a conference that is now in my power.

I entirely disclaim the least attempt to influence your decision, any farther than ^{the} ~~the~~ facts which I may state shall appear to yourself to deserve notice - and I give them, that you may have a view of the whole ground, as I should wish to have it myself were I in the same situation - & I am sure I should wish to know the views of a minority from themselves.

I cannot say, therefore ~~that~~ that I am pleased with the character of your preaching, taken as a whole. It appears to me to be too metaphysical, or intellectual; while it is