

Oxford 10th Jan. 1829

Dear Sir,

yesterday I recd. yours of the 1st inst. and must be allowed to say I was surprised at its contents.

I do not distinctly recollect the particulars of either my correspondence or conversations with you, on the subject of Mr. Arnold's dismission - nor need I to recollect either, to be assured that there was nothing in them inconsistent with, or that ought to have surprised you upon the reading of my letter to Mr. A. I am conscious of nothing uncandid or dishonourable in that unpleasant business. My feelings on the occasion were conflicting but not contradictory - and this perhaps is the cause why my conduct is misunderstood and misrepresented. To you however

I will not - nay I need not make a defence.

Indeed I can hardly persuade myself that you read my letter to Mr. A. If you did, I must believe that you remembered more of the comment than of the text when you wrote the letter now before me.

I happen to have the means of recalling to my recollection the contents of my confidential communication to Mr. A. To say of an occurrence that it is an unpleasant or an unfortunate affair, does not surely imply any necessary or severe censure & the reflection that the consequence of public bodies was proverbial might be naturally enough suggested by the impropriety of of passing an important resolution, without giving the reasons for such a measure, however politic or just that measure might be. This is the amount of my strictures on the conduct of the board - I did & do still disapprove of the false modesty that dictated that part of their conduct.

For Mr Annan I entertained feelings of friendship
These dictated my conduct in regard to him.

Had I believed him capable of the pusillanimity
which he manifested on his return (which together
with an unusual share of unfortunateness obtained
for him the letters which you saw, from the
members of the board - upon the supposition
that his statements were correct - which they
neither admitted nor believed) I should have
taken a different course, and not have put ^{it} in his ^{power} to abuse a confidence which I now find
to have been misplaced - With him I have done.

A man who can under the guise of friend-
ship and amidst the strongest protestations
of confidence and esteem violate the secret
of a confidential correspondence, is one with
whom I could not consent to co-operate, even in
the accomplishment of my most favourite enterprise
- much less ~~would I consent~~ to be accessory to my
own defamation in order to oblige him -

With this subject too I have done - and forever.
To you, as I said before, I need not enter on a de-
-fence - to him or his friends I will never ^{analyse} ~~analyse~~ ^{analyse}
friends and am anxious to retain them - But if they
will not be at the pains to interpret my conduct
from ordinary and in some degree rational motives
I am content to lose them. Fare well -
Rev A. A. Phelps yours as ever Wm. W. Channing

P.S. I hope you will write me as soon as you
have determined whether you will migrate
Eastward or Westward - let it be Westward.

Your Bible & H. book arrived safe and
shall be subject to your order - Cannot
you let them remain until you pass on your
way to Bloomington? —

1831
Rev. A. A. Phelps D.D.
Washington
D.C.

Recd

Do not suppose that you are the subject of
the ill nature evinced in the present shuttle.
I am only displeased that so few of my
fellow beings are like you. —