Princeton, New Jersey, March 18th, 1836

Mr. A. A. Phelps

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Dear Sir,

I received your letter on Friday last - and am happy to say that there is one way in which you can gain admission to the minds and hearts of this people. I will first however state where you cannot be heard.

It has for a long time been my desire to have the Students of the Theological Seminary, with which I am connected, addressed on this important subject, and accordingly about 2 months since I called on Dr. Alexander, and asked him whether he had any objection to our inviting Mr. Thompson here to address us. He said "They had objections, they wanted no strangers here, they would in place have any other political subject introduced into the Seminary &c. I lost his mind was fixed incorruptibly in the determination to keep the subject out of the Seminary if he could." So the doors of the Seminary are closed against you. Neither could you obtain the church in this place - for it need only be mentioned that Dr. Rice is its pastor - Neither can you obtain any public room or hall to hold a public meeting for fear of damage from a mob. But here is a large and beautiful room, which will hold about 200, in the central part of the borough - and I spoke with the owner about hiring it from him for an evening - mentioning the subject. He said he had no objection if we would have a meeting in a private, or select, by inviting then only the members of the Seminary and a few delict persons in the borough - I have them admitted by tickets - this concealing the meeting entirely from the aristocrats - and the expense of the room lights &c furnished with seats will be
3, 03 — This room is on the second story — and the owner of the house is also its occupant — so that difficulty would dictate to him a prudent & gentlemanly course.

The difficulty in the way of holding a truly public meeting is that there are many very wild students in the college from the South, who would like us better to have them to meet at an out-of-town tavern.

Wednesday evening is the evening on which you must hold your meeting, if you come — because on that evening we have no exercises in the Seminary, and all the students could attend. Come next week, if you can conveniently, or else the week after, on Thursday. Put up at Mrs. Blackwell’s tavern — and to avoid the appearance of any preconcerted plan, try and obtain so little church for the next evening — it will be refused — certainly — and then engage this room above mentioned. On Thursday evening I will introduce the halfway abolitionists to you, that their faith may be strengthened by conversation — which will be very necessary.

For the sake of the cause of abolition here, as well as my peace while I remain in this place — do not whisper it even that I have had a hand in bringing it about — for my situation is very different from what they would be were I a regular abolitionist.

Bring one ticket with you to give to the friends of others who may be invited to attend — I write to me immediately in to what will be done — When we may expect to see you —

What I have mentioned has been in confidence, if it may be mentioned to Mr. Thompson also in confidence, but to no others — for you must perceive the propriety of doing so in such a movement, being that I am merely a student. Yo —

Yours ever from your fellow laborer —

C. G.
I would mention that one of the principal objections urged here is, that the Apostles did not preach against slavery in their day—but merely preached Christ & him crucified knowing that this doctrine would overthrow every unrighteous system—more than to colonization temperance, Bible, Tract, Missions & Society! If I will make out a list of those families which may be invited by the time of your arrival—
Princeton, March 16, 1875

To:

Rev. Amos B. Phelps
Anti-Slavery Office
No. 130 Nassau St. New York