

one would have believed they had engaged such
sentiments if an opponent had asserted it. I wrote
to Putney Church & it seems the postmaster Mr
Chandler was one of the same class he handed my letter
to Mr Harris their leader & they both wrote to me & also
sent a copy of my letter to Mr Bease & he read it
to the meeting

It was an inquiry
as to their being
such a sect then
Kc To be looked
up

If you want any other information
I will send it as far as I can
I can make up my mind as to
please circulate my views as to
the union of the church with
me I will do in a sermon
Kc To be looked
up

Barnes to the
Feb 21st

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Mr J A Phelps

Pastor of the Marine Church

Chilmark
Boston

Mr Bease said he did not belong to either of those
infidels I had named but says he Ministers Bible societies
tract societies missionary societies & Sabbath
schools was infidelists of the worst kind. In
raising this he did up the work much more effectually
than any opponent could have done for them for us

all appearance sent certain special messengers to the
churches most by to the Methodist & without waiting
until the minister had closed his remarks & when possible
by forbidden commenced haranguing the people running
down the ministers seldom praying but when doing so
often praying that (the ministers) might get out of the way
he conversed & c. on one occasion a few weeks ago at a
protracted meeting while the minister was speaking one
of them rose & continued talking the minister closed the
meeting the spoke louder & louder others of the same stamp
joined in the chorus & so loud a pitch did they get to that
the keeper of the light house at Sandy neck or beach
point & his family heard them I should think it was
more than 2 miles distant in a northeast direction they near
also heard a mile & a half to the westward at the same time
so you will perceive they are not wanting in lungs, one
female took off her bonnet & throwing it in the air screamed
& talked in a voice of thunder. But lest I should not have room
I must here allude to their last meeting at the Marwick hall
to discuss their sentiments but 20 minutes were allotted to
each speaker Dr Hull asked them some questions which he
most by evaded or declined to answer & his followers fearing their
craft was in danger were unwilling he should be questioned
no one replied to them but me (Mr Cummings took notes of
all or the most that was said. I showed in brief the doctrine
came from who the Fathers were & the children & what the
effect would be if their notions were carried out viz the
abolition of all law in particular that of marriage viz
& this & its attendants bring about the depopulation of the world
I identified them with Fanny Knight Owen Dr. and
Barnason Whittamore & c. Mr Gorse denied this but
at a sailing time ^{of the} last 20 minutes in fact no one
could reply he hurried his seat ^{forward} & I will say so on what

After these persons had left many of their followers
turned away in disgust but there were quite a number
who still held on & actually said repeatedly that they
believed they were good men with all their crimes on their heads
for & disagree with Sheppear & believe that not only the good that
men would do but also the evil that they would do & have done
lives after them. I conceive that these were the Fathers of
this new sect (although Whittier finally called himself a
Unitarian yet I believe no one of that sect claimed him as
far as I know & when Dr James Coyle wrote his notorious
infidel letter to Wm L Garrison & so soon as Mr G had time
to lift his opinions into the Liberator these same persons seemd
to be the first to eagerly seize on them & pretended to be
inspired or have special messages from the Lord they soon declar-
ed that Unitarian Hardin sinners may they had no religion
more leading sinners to ruin said they had rather go to
a house of ill fame to preach than go to a meeting
on one occasion I was at a Methodist meeting when a pro-
minent female (the wife of A. B.) pretended to be in great
agony while the minister was preaching & when he had
done she arose & after saying a word or two she made a
noise for ten or fifteen minutes which I have not been able
since to liken it to any thing but that so often made
by a crow which you will oft see on a post in the
morning this was the first time I ever spoke against
them I told some of the church I thought it of more
the spirit of the devil than of religion, but one
said they that is the true spirit & so carried away were
they that these same persons soon left the Church because
it was not good enough for them & immediately attempt-
ed to overturn what they had before been trying to
build up they denounced meeting houses as hell houses
& ministers as devils since they came out they have to

As I obtained Mr. Gales letter
in season it is published in a
pamphlet. L. G.

L. Crocker, Jr.
Barnstable February 3rd 1841

Mrs. Phelps

Dear Sir

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Having been repeatedly
requested to send you a few lines relating to the origin
and general character of the new lights come out
non-resistant to Trinitarianists & Co. I take this opportu-
nity of doing so not having sufficient time of
writing before. About twelve years ago a man by the
name of Daniel Whittimore came on the Cape
he appeared to manifest considerable zeal for religion
said he had no wish to build up any society (which
his subsequent conduct proved to be true) he pretend-
ed to preach or exhort in various societies if I mist take
it for some time he at length called himself a free will
baptist & had quite a number of followers & it may be infor-
mation is correct he soon discarded any name but that of a
Christian. I think it was about eleven years ago that I first
heard him his cry was in the various churches where he
went come out from among them come out from Babylon
& Co. he brought over a considerable number of persons
I make short of it although he was a married man & had
quite a family of children yet so powerfully did he operate
on the minds of his followers that he actually seduced
2 females & carried off one with him & the other followed
him about the same time a co-partner by the name of Pearce
labored in the same field (he was a married man) he so
wrought upon the minds of one female that she said
she really thought him next to her Saviour but when
he asked her to elope with him her eyes were opened
& she rushed from his house & flew to her parents to inform
them of his guile. I have no doubt but she was a virtuous girl she has
since gone to her long home