

Pleasant NY

August 19 '72

L. W. Phelps Esq

Leicester

I have your letter of 17th instant - & I suppose you like General Phelps who served in our Army in the late war.

I now send you a copy of my speech to my neighbors delivered June 24th, that you may see there is nothing in it on the subject of Secret Societies. If the copy you read contains any thing on that subject it must have been inserted by some other hand than mine.

Like yourself, I am opposed to all Secret Societies - Know Nothings, Grand Lodge, Grand Lodge, & chiefly the cause of my dread of the ascendancy of the pro-slavery Democratic Party.

I thank you for your letter. This is an able letter, & well worthy of

my self construction -

With great regard

your friend

Smithwick

Aug 19 1855

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Hout Gerrit Smith
Peterboro

Aug 19 1872