

Boston Feby 25-- 49

Dear Bradburn,

Yours of the 22 was not received until yesterday.

I should not dare write to Smith "privately," as you suggest, unless he were to invite me to give him my opinion. I should be more afraid of offending him by a private lecture, (for I fear he would consider it such), than by a public refutation of his argument. I had some thought long ago of reviewing his argument in the Pioneer or Chronotype—but lack of time, the ungraciousness of the task, and the difficulty of reconciling him to the truth, without presenting some other points connected with the question, induced me to forego the attempt. As long as Smith has a motive to believe any particular position, argument does not satisfy him. If I should ever complete my work, he will then see, I think, not only that nothing is gained by the reasoning he adopts, but that much is lost. His reasoning first violates legal rules, (or, what is the same thing), dispenses with their application), to admit slavery into the constitution, and then violates them again to get it out.

I inclose [sic] his letter, as you request—

I think you have indeed "returned the dab." I doubt if you will hear again from that quarter. Ever since Garrison accused you of falsehood in offering that resolution in Ohio, two years ago, I have had great doubts of his regard for truth. At any rate he is either a willful liar, or such a bigot that he can't see the truth, when it makes against his own infallibility. But, be it either way, he ought to be drubbed into a batter[?] of observance of candor and truth.

I care less for his opinion now, than formerly, although I never cared much for it, for I never considered it of any great intrinsic value. But the power is now passing out of his hands, and his sayings and doings are of little consequence compared with what they once were.

I was at Athol last Wednesday and Thursday—Mrs. Hoyt made many inquiries in regard to you, and was very sorry she could not see you when she was here in the fall.

Those lines, in your paper, two or three weeks ago, by Elizabeth M. Sargeant, were our Mrs. Sargeant's. You credited them to the Liberty Bell. They should have been credited to Burleigh's Newfarel[?]. Mrs. Hoyt showed me the paper containing them.

Whether Davis was a member of the R.J. Legislature, I know not.
He is a jeweler[?].

Yours truly,

L. Spooner