

Worcester Novr 8, 1849

Dear Bradburn,

Old Daniel gave me his answer yesterday morning, in these words, as nearly as I can repeat them—

“I could not give an opinion contrary to the practice of the government for half a century. It may be all true, (meaning that my ground might be true), but I cannot signify it.”

He gave no intimation that he had read my argument. Shame that the old fellow should be such a slave as not to dare look into the question fairly, and give his opinion. But so it is, and I have no help for it.

If you should come here to see Merrick, inquire for me at Mr. Cloyes's[?], No 4 Central St.

If you write to Smith about my matters, I wish, (if you please) you would mention that I said to you that he could not escape his obligation to pay for the opinion by refusing to read it—that the labor of preparing it has been performed, and it is for that, that compensation is due—that having had all the labor of preparing it, at his request, it is nothing to me whether he read it or not.

Yours truly,

L. Spooner