

Cleveland, June 15, 1858

Dear Spooner:

I wish I have something to say, in itself worth your while to listen to. But, to postpone writing you until I could find that sort of something, were to cut out diminished correspondence altogether.

I had hoped, until very lately, to get possession of this proper. When I last wrote you, it was, if I rightly remember, in pursuit of \$10,000 for that purpose. I had, so great was my success, rec'd promises of a _____ more than I needed, when Vaughan withdrew his offer! It was another trick of his. I have not yet got a settlement with him, either on my own account or that of a friend whom he owes some \$2800. But the latter is in a way to be paid, I think. Indeed this I have never supposed to be in danger of being finally took it's payment, now four years hence, being _____ by mortgage. Sunday persons, partly to avoid the odium which might fall on themselves by the non-payment of the paper's debts, have provided \$10,000 to act in the liquidation of those, & patch up the concern so as to make it _____ until after the November election. Meanwhile, Vaughan will probably stick to it. Wade tells me "he would be ___ to be ___ out of it." I tell them both that "my only _____ arise from having ever been in the thing." Wade, who is at the head of that \$10,000 affair, told me he should try to have me continued on the paper with V., "until November at least." I shall hear something rather emphatic __ my to that, when the proposal shall have been formally made to me, provided my friends head & my own shall then be fairly out the lion's mouth. - In consideration of my sufferings, V offered to procure a donation of \$1000 for me, if I would let over my friend's loan to be _____ by him at his leisure! He did not suppose a human being in my circumstances could "spurn the bribe".

I wish I might have a paying connection, such as you allude to, with the Commonwealth. But I should not wish to be placed at Wrights mercy, or _____, again, with all my condemnation of that superlative editor. A connection with him that should leave each indebted out of the other, would be another thing, & very agreeable to me, were the pay quite certain, & the situation likely to be permanent. But the Commonwealth, understand, is in the hands of _____ mand; & two such