

Rec;d Decr. 2 1870 L. Spooner

Jamaica Plain

Dear Sir—

I am much obliged to you for your note & pamphlet. The latter I have read with interest but not with conviction. It is very logical & perhaps unanswerable. But it does not, I think will not convince every people. They will say “We do not care whether the Constitution is a permanent contract or not—we like it – the majority of the people like it. If they did not, they could change it at any time. It the people considered it oppression they would not wait for your argument to convince them that they had a right to resist or to change it. But as long as they believe that the United State Government is on the whole, better, than any other they are liberty to get, they will maintain it, inspite of the most logical arguments to the contrary. I do not think you strengthen your case by calling all connected with the government “robbers & murderers.” And all who support it “dopes and fools.” This sort of language was thought affective by the Anti Slavery people but I doubt whether it really helped them, in the long run.

There is one class of persons whom you may convince— those who do not wish to may the interest on the bonds, including all the old copperheads & rebels. But then these are convinced already— so that I do not know as this will do much good.

You see, I am very frank with you – but do not suppose treason’r have read your pamphlet without perceiving the sincerity, earnestness & ability with which it is written. Not have I forgotten the great services you have rendered the nation in the past. I am therefore the more sorry to see you wasting your strength & power (so it seems to me) in what would be an _____ work, even if not certain to be ineffectual.

Very respectfully yours.
James Freeman Claskin

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