

Boston Decr. 27 - 1853

Mr Goodell,

Dear Sir,

I have read your first five articles in the Era[?] on the Legal Tenure of Slavery, and I feel sorry to tell you that I think you are infringing, and from the plan of argument laid down, propose further to infringe the copyright of my argument on the same subject. You can probably satisfy yourself on these permits by referring to Curtis on Copyright Chapter 10, and especially pages 238-244-253 -x 254 - you can ~~undoubtedly~~ easily find the book in New York ~~the Law Library or in some of the Law bookstores in New York.~~

Mr Marsh is now the sole legal proprietor of the copyright of my argument, and an infringement would perhaps be a legal injury only to him. But I feel a personal interest of another kind in the book, and should feel that an infringement was a moral wrong to me,.

I write this note on Mr Marsh's behalf, as well as my own - and with his a__estation[?].

~~If you should be~~ We of course have no right to object to your writing at pleasure on the subject, provided you do not use ideas borrowed from us. But I think you will see, on reference to the book mentioned, that the principles of ~~the~~ copyrights law are perhaps more comprehensive and ~~very~~ stringent than you were aware of, as to the right of appropriating ~~other men's~~ an author's ideas.

We wish to have no unfriendly feeling on the subject, for we both have a very high respect for you, and do not by any means suppose that you have intended to transcend either your legal or moral rights. But we shall feel obliged to you, if before you go further, you will look at the law, and judge for yourself whether your plan embraces an infringement of our rights.

If it should prove that you are not infringing and do not propose to infringe, we shall owe you an apology for having suggested the matter to you.

Yours very truly

Lysander Spooner