

Immature – Impractical – Impolitic

My dear Sir,

Above, in brief, is my candid criticism of the circular in regard to which you have done me the honor to request my opinion. It is possible that I may be mistaken, but I feel as well assured as I can of anything not absolutely certain, that the result of the Lopez expedition to ____, some years since, was a brilliant triumph, compared with the result that would inevitably follow the attempt to carry out your present plan of operations in the faith. The circular in its present form can never be more serviceable in accomplishing the great object you have in view, Here at the south it will effect no good – it might do harm, at the South it would certainly strengthen the claims of slavery. I sincerely trust that you will not distribute it, or, to say the least, that you will withhold it from the public until the next presidential campaign.

For several months past I have had it in contemplation to issue a circular especially designed to reach the South in the right way; and if I am not failed or prejudiced in my aims and efforts, I think I shall, in connection with other southerners, who are willing and anxious to cooperate with me, be successful in accomplishing more in the direction within the next two or three years than has been accomplished within the last fifteen.

My friend, Prof. Fredrick, has seen your circular, and fully concurs in the opinion which I have expressed in reference to the same. Neither the Professor nor myself, however, desire to be taken as criticisms to go by. Probably, it would be well for you to consult others.

Yours very truly,
H.R. Helper
Box 1077
New York, Dec. 1858

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