

Worcester. Nov. 28, 1859

Dear Sir,

I am glad of your continued zeal, in a matter where few people manifest any, but I cannot take your view of the subject.

I have several fatal objections to the plan, & the one I hv. chiefly urged (not as most important in my own mind, but as sufficiently so,) is this :

It is an absurdity to suppose that we can induce by money the worst men in the country to do a desperate act – when any one of them can make twice as much money by betraying it.

By betraying I did not mean (as you seem to suppose) betraying afterward – that is nothing – but betraying in advance. Betraying in advance wd. defeat the whole plot & make any money ahead advanced a mere waste. And it wd. certainly be done. What shld. be prevent it. What hold have we on then are interest? The real sympathy of these men is with Virginia. And if we offered them \$1000 apiece, any one of them could make \$2000 in Virginia by telling the project in time to defeat it.

I make nearly the same objection against the Richmond plan, if in the hand of hired persons. It seems to me useless to waste words on a thing so clear.

The German project is better if we had an nucleus of americans, not otherwise. It wd. be armed to send a part of foreigners where everyone is dispoaked(?) & where their accent no. wd. expert? Alarm at once. If we had 25 Americans, I hv. always said I shld. Be willing to join 25 Germans with them 00 but we hv. not.

I hv. taken some pains to sound & observe people on this point & observe people on this point & hv. most unwillingly been compelled to abandon the hope of redeeming the honor of the Free States, in the end may open– by the rescue of John Brown & his comrades. Virginia may be weak and cowardly but she has proved strong enough to defeat us.

Truly yours,
T.W. Higginson

There is no need of burning this.

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