

Painesville, O. Jan. 16, 1859

Mr. Spooner,

Dear Sir, I have read your address to the Nonslaveholders of the South, I thank you for myself, & on behalf of the cause, for which you have done a great work, in making a great beginning. Truth needs, first of all, a clear, outspoken statement of her principles & determinations. Have our forefathers continued to contend only for a "redress of grievances," I hesitated to proclaim their whole idea, which, from the first, was independence, the context would have been indefinitely prolonged. When they dared to say all they meant the victory was essentially soon(?). It would be well for our cause if we could initiate the audacity of our foews. Truth should not disarm her champions, yet such seemed to be the effect of her humanizing & elevating influences. The learn to hate fighting & therefore are not "reliant for the truth. War has been employees so long only in behalf of wrong; that the idea of its use on behalf of rights had become obsolete. Yet so as it wicked only when its purpose is not worthy. A war in whatever form, & to whatever extent, however desperate & bloody against slavery would be a holy war. The garments dyed in such a war could partake of the beauty of His who came from Edom(?). A better triumph, here and hereafter, awaits those who ___ the pirates & hounds of slavery than Israel's daughters gave to David. I want the bullies & desperadoes of slavery to be taught that the champions of freedom are ready for the contest in any form, civil or savage. "Fas est ab hoste decore." We learn too slowly of our tyrants. If a dozen of our representatives had secretly combined & unitedly acted, as did the assassins of ___, to inflict luminary retribution upon the most obnoxious of the dogs of slavery (Douglas for instance) in retaliation for that outrage, such outrages would have become henceforth impossible. Instead of this they had cowered beneath the still possible bludgeon to this day. If the 1500 white handed black hearted state street swindlers & traitors who banded together to return ___ to slavery had been waited upon by a proper deputation of the real men of Mass.tts with the ultimatum that they must disband, or receive the treatment of those tories & traitors to whom our fathers denied the courtesies of common warfare, & gave them over to the incendiary & assassin, then thsoe 1500 self enrolled hounds of slavery would have skulked with unwagging tongues back to there kennels; & Worten would have been spared that infamy. I am a Garrisonian as I am a christian– ie imperfectly. I admire the pure & peaceful principles which rely wholly on moral power & the right of the spirit. But "non omnes possumus omnia." My trust in God is stronger when I feel some trust in myself & keep my powder dry. Garrisonism (which is only a new name for what Christianity was meant) would & yet will plant the wilderness of this would with the rock of Sharon, but there needs a rough breaking up team first to prepare the way. The ugly dragons heads must be cut off & their necks seared & their claws destroyed.

No people are worthy of freedom who will not fight in its behalf. There may be higher truths than that, but this is as high as I can climb at present.

Truth has hitherto spoekn hesitatingly – whisperingly or with disclaimers. The most outspoken has disclaimed physical force – the very "staff of accomplishment." You have given her a new trumpet, not only loud & clear, but polished & graceful. May it summn all true champions to the rescue.

Yours truly,

Daniel Mann

use, as you choose