

Boston, May 11, 1851

Dear Bradburn,

I came home from New York yesterday, and found your note—was very sorry not to find yourself.

My plan for starting a paper here would be something like this. I suppose you could command some little money if it should be necessary—a few hundred dollars. The paper should be only a weekly. You should find some practical printer to take hold with you—if he has a little capital, it would be desirable, perhaps White & Potter would do it. To start with, you should get Wards' subscription list, if possible, (to his Impartial Citizen). It is probably worth nothing to him, and you could get it for a trifle. And as he is lecturing about the country, you should employ him to get subscribers. For fifty cents a subscriber, I think he would work hard for you, and get—great money.

Perhaps you could also get the subscription list of the Liberty Party Paper. It is about time for that paper to die. It has lived to be about the age of the Albany Patriot, and Model Worker, when they died. Perhaps, however, Smith would not consent that that paper be given up, unless he expected your paper would be a mere tin trumpet for him. He seems to regard it as indispensable that he should have at least one wind instrument in his employ. But you can judge of that. If you could get the subscription lists of the Impartial Citizen and Liberty Party Paper, you would start on a good footing. Then you have more or less friends scattered over the country who would subscribe—and many who would take a personal interest to get others to subscribe. Then, there are a great many men scattered over Massachusetts, and indeed all New England, who are dissatisfied with mere free soilism—and would lend heart and hand to the support of a thoroughgoing paper.

Beside Ward, as an agent, I presume you could get the Scotchman _____. He has become convinced of the truth of my doctrine, he says, and he would make a capital hand at getting subscribers.

There is also a Green brother of Bernish[?], who sells anti-slavery books. I presume he would be glad of an agency to get subscribers for you. Other agents might also be obtained no doubt.

The very name of your paper "The Anti-Slavery Constitutionalist" would bring you a great many subscribers. And I think it would not be a year before your paper would be established on a living basis. But it would require some energy on the part of the publisher. It would be indispensable that you have a practical man interested in you.

As for your getting a living out of any paper in Ohio, I do not believe it possible.

These are briefly my notions. I was in hope I should see you, and converse with you fully on this subject before you went to Ohio.

If you write to me, direct to Boston, though it is uncertain whether I shall remain here. I did not succeed in New York, apparently for no other reason than that Bates and Hale, having acquaintances and friends in the city to aid them, got the start of me, and got the leading men to subscribe for them, before my claims were made known. The world seems determined to starve me to death—and I suspect it will succeed in doing so.

I shall expect to hear from you.

Yours truly

Lysander Spooner

P.S. I do not consider it indispensable that you should get the subscription list of the Liberty Party Paper, but if you could get it, it would be a great help.

May 12—I called at Hildreth's last evening. Mrs. Hildreth has just buried her sister who has been so long sick—