

Cleveland, April 20, 1853

Dear Spooner:

Yours of the 15th was rec'd yesterday.

Truly it was a heart-breaking blow that fell on our friends, the Hildreths. We thank you for having promptly communicating to us the sad intelligence. "We want ___ to say a word to them." Such was my exclamation on reading your letter. Yet I almost doubt if we ought not to forbear making the endeavor; ___ it were quite impossible for us to say a word which would be more than a feeble expansion over sympathy with these bereavement, & that sympathy they already know to be theirs, even better than a hundred such pens as this would write it. If I could make Hildreth feel & think my own sentiments & thoughts on the occasion, then I ___ might do him some good. But ___ impossible that is, who knows better than yourself. I almost feel it ___ worth while, to were is possible, to cheat one, in his reflection into the behest of immortality.

I am glad, after your long silence on a subject which always so interests me, to learn something of your own affairs. I am, however, very apt to be vexed, when I hear as I have more than one heard, of Lysander Spooner's trying to get "the means to live on" while he could "write and Essay" on this subject or on that. I was curious to see your development of "The Law of Intellectual Property." Most folks, I apprehend, have yet to learn, that there is such a law. I suspect you are a little likely to "magnify the law", & so ___ to "make it honorable."

I have not yet attempted "a review" of your Trial by Jury. One reason I have not is the formidableness of such an attempt. The other is , that I have not, during the last five months, has any inducement to write a word for this accursed paper, which, but for the \$3000 in it belonging to a friend of mine who placed it there for my good, I should have been barred to do my best & my worst to wish to _____. As early as December last, I thought & gave you some account of how Vaughan had swindled me. At that time, though, I hoped he would, at the lease, simply with a ___ which he had then first commented. Bu he has only gone on with his swindling. And now, God only knows what suffering the scoundrel may bring upon me, and mine. You once told me you believed in neither angles nor devils. I ___ you my faith in the latter, strong as it then was, has since greatly increased.

I have not "seen the controversy between Horace Mann and Wendell Phillips." I have seen only a fragment or two of it. Yet I have been particularly anxious to thoroughly to keep the mind of it. Whether our copy of the Liberator has not come regularly to hand, or

having so come to hand, members of it have been suddenly swept aside before I could get hold of them, I do not know. Robinson, of Lowell, lately wrote me that the thought Mann had the better of Phillips.

You say nothing to me of Wright. I should like to know if you have ever heard of business men in Boston's expressing my deplorable lack of faith in W.'s honesty. I have heard them so reported, why a few days ago, in reference to his speculations (if I ___ have and that word) touching insurance matters, which, they been alleged to fancy, Wright would make appear one way or another, just as some present will well-paying employer might wish him to do. Of course I don't believe it to be the opinion of "reputable business men" in Boston of our friend, strongly as most of them may be prejudiced against him because of his ___ acts. I should ____, truly, if he has given into those matters that he may have an open field & fair play. In that case, he handed ___ doubt of his bending the field to yield him a richer harvest than he ever reaped from editing. The ___ Dudp[?] who was here the other day, told me he "once had some ideal of employing Wright on his paper, but that it would not be ___ that W was likely to now everything into the ground. Ugh! Just think of what a Pandemonium would if must be, in which it were possible for Dadp[?] to favor Wright! I tell you what, Spooner: we must have another, to affect against it. - You _____ to feel an interest in "Eliger," notwithstanding his _____ rapture of my connection with the _____ typw. Did I tell you ___ Lint[?] came down upon me for the remarks I made whom he ___ W out of the Commonwealth. Has Lint you ___ to Sewall's offices?

I wish some of my friends would but me an interest in that paper & let me back to "the American Athens," provided, of [margin p.1] course, an interest in it has got to be a thing worth having, and I am told by some one the paper does now pay. Mr.[?] L.[?] White was lately along here, on his way to Wisconsin, to risk[?] a settlement there. How odd that struck me. I had supposed that one born & trained amid so many New England comforts, could allow himself to ___ of such an expatriation.

Mann[?] has already written a letter to Mr. Hildreth, & it is so much [over] of a heart thing, that I feel as if I should least it by adding a hand of my own, & _____ not ___ one. ___ & our

_____ will probably go East soon. ___ boomer to her you ___ in December ___ & the latter to her sisters in New York & would ___ & _____ consent to this, but for the straight ___ which V. has _____. "My poverty, and my wife, consents. Geo. Bradburn