

Watergosda, Tex. Dec. 31st / 67

Mr. Spooner,

As I am a secessionist, I've read your article on "Treason," published in DeBow's Review, with a great deal of pleasure. But you've made one mistake, and I write to tell you about it. You say, we fought for "chattel slavery"; indeed, Sir, we did not. Slavery was the occasion, and not the cause of the war. We fought for "States Rights," and slavery, of course, among them; we wanted principally to establish a nationality of our own, & to be totally and eternally severed from you Yankees, whom we hate, as the Balmist__ (?) did his enemies, with "a perfect hate." We would have been willing, to have given up the last negro we owned, if that would have effected the separation we desired. We didnt love negroes for themselves, Sir, we loved liberty, and there is not a true Southern man, woman, or child, who wouldnt tell you to day, that had we freedom, poverty would possess no sting for us.

I am a woman, however, I have the sense to see the error you've committed, and cannot refrain from which you would rectify it. Considering you are a Boston man, I think you are remarkably liberal-minded, and culd almost desire that you might boast of a prouder banner than the one that floats above you.

Miss. Hattie Talbot