

Boston Mar 18 -1869

Gerrit Smith Esq.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> was rec<sup>d</sup> yesterday and two days before I rec<sup>d</sup> the paper containing the retraction. The times of the terms of the retraction seem to me sufficient. The only question that occurred to me in regard to it, was, whether it ought no to have been signed by the whole Committee, instead of three only? But I suppose that, as these three acted as the sub-committee in drafting the manifesto, you thought their retraction sufficient.

Our friend Searle thinks you releasing there from the payment of any money except you expenses does great credit to your heart. I think so too. And it was probably the best way= although I doubt I could have had the grace to do it. Not that I supposed you wished to put the money into your own pocket. But I thought you might require them to pay something to some benevolent objects which you might designate. I hope they appreciate your mangnaminty.

Dear Rogers, the author of "Letters to the Pro-Slavery Men of America," died on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. of consumption, after a long illness. I had hoped he would live to see the book published on which he had been hard at work for three or four years. He kept at work where it is as long as he had any strength left. ~~leaving his family, a wife and four or five chilredn, distribute excerpts the copyright of book on which he had been at work for so long. He kept at work upon it as long as he had any strength left. I had hoped he would live to see it published. It was in part, a history of the Anti Slavery sentiment of this country, during the Revolutionary period sau from 1761 to 1789. Showing that all the great characters of that period recognized and insisted upon the right of the colored people to the same liberty with the whites. I have read parts of it in manuscript, and found it very interesting and instructive, and better adapted to shame the couardly and pro slavery sentiment of the present dat, than perhaps any book that has yet been published.~~

~~It also tends to prove that no pro slavery constitution of the United States could have been adopted. He was a very talented and enthusiastice man and worked upon his book as lonf as he had any strength left. Before his death, his wife had obtained subscriptions for some from five hundred copies, and I presume she will not make a further effort to get it published.~~

Is my argument on the consul question in your hands or Mr Sedgwick's? If in his, may I ask you to have it returned either to yourself, or to me? I have no use for it now, and would as \_\_\_ it should be in your hands, as in mine. All I wish is that is may be

where it will be safe, and where I can get it, if I should ever want it, as I think I may.

Yours truly

L Spooner.