

Boston Jany. 5 - 1854

Mr Goodill,

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 3d inst. was received today.

I do not at all object to your referring to my book. as [sic] one another usually refers to another - that is _____ ~~to~~ consideration _____ for an occasional fact or idea _____ arguments or ideas originating with yourself. What I object to is, that you _____ ~~should either~~ should in any considerable degree appropriate to your own use tghе fruits of my labor, either by taking the facts which I have brought to your knowledge, or the arguments or ideas which I originated, and [crossed out word, unintelligible] either by changing the phraseology or not, using those facts, arguments, or ideas, as substantial rationals [sic] for a book ~~of~~ to be called your own, and to be sold for your benefit, in _____.

Whether you would thereby promote the sale of my book as you seem to _____ is a question about which we might differ. I cannot judge on that without seeing your articles.

The decision of Judge Grier that it is no piracy to take a mans ideas, ~~if it be done without expressing the in the same words~~ unless you take his words also, is a kind of law worthy of Judge Grier, if worthy of anybody; yet I could hardly have expected anything so absurd even from him. On that principle, it would be no wrong for one man to take another man's grain, until he took the sacks in which ~~he had~~ it was deposited ~~it~~. I cannot believe that you have any serious ideas _____ intention of acting [?]where[?] any such law as that. Words are the common property of mankind, but ideas are the property of ~~those~~ him who produces them; and no one has a right to use them without his consent, - that consent to be either explicitly or justly implied from circumstances.

You said, in yours of Dec. 28, that you could easily carry out your plan by using very little of anything not contained in ~~my~~ your pamphlet of 1844 (_____) together with facts contained in the two books ~~before mentioned (Stewart and [?]Clarkson[?])~~ of Stewart and [?]Clarkson[?], "and newspaper articles that have appeared since you (I) wrote."

If these newspaper articles are taken from my book, either literally, or any [sic] the ideas, their publication in the _____ would give you no authority to use them. Your use of them would only

be taking words from me at second hand.

In your 6th number I notice, two or three ideas, (in the 2d or 3d paragraphs), which I suppose were taken from my book.

I ~~am~~ shall be very sorry to do anything to interrupt or _____ you in the prosecution of your plan, unless your plan is naturally to interfere with [?]our[?] rights. ~~If you have~~ If I could see your articles before they are printed I could decide at once whether I object to them. If you have duplicates of them, ad [sic] can send [?]all[?] of them to me, I will examine them, and write your [sic] ~~at~~ immediately whether I object to anything, and if so to what. And _____ you I do not intend to [?]stand[?] about trifles or to be in the least degree _____. I only wish to preserve our substantial and natural rights from infringement.

~~Yours truly~~

~~Lysander Spooner~~

Would it be to much trouble to send me duplicates of your articles, commencing with the 9th _____ leaving the 7th & 8th to be published without my seeing them? That will save the [?]necessity[?] of any interruption in the weekly _____ ~~of a _____~~.

Yours, truly

Lysander Spooner