A Splendid Start.

To the Editor of Liberty:
The only objection you raise against Mr. Robinson's plan is financial. The great good that might result from such an undertaking cannot be over-estimated. It would be a concentrated reproduction of the great blows already dealt you by your State superintendence. The fact of your having been able to sustain your paper so long in spite of all opposition proves to me that you must be supported by a growing number of admirers and followers.

These must all be interested in the publication of a work which would bring the principles they confess in a concise and terse form before the public. The burden of the cost of publishing, too great to be carried by you alone, might easily be borne by the strength of all. It would be a way to show that voluntary cooperation is very practical, even under existing circumstances, if undertaken by the right kind of persons. Moreover, I would please it by being menked at large.

If you make an estimate of the cost of publication, and send it to all supporters of Liberty, I have faith enough in true Anarchists to think that the difficulty would dwindle into nothing by each taking his share of the burden according to his lifting capacity.

To prove that it is not all wind I talk, I will back my scheme with $100 cash whenever required.

If you consider this a fool's or a dreamer's scheme, treat it accordingly. I remain,

Very Respectfully,

G. A. F. De Lespinasse.

OSSANO CITY, IOWA, SEPT. 19, 1892.

This letter, written of a group of John Beverley Robinson's suggestion in No. 235 that he should issue in book form a classified selection from my editorials in Liberty from the beginning, is one of the greatest surprises that I have experienced as editor of this paper. It is not many months since the writer and I had a passage-at-arms, in which we said things of each other that were not exactly complimentary. That he is able to forget that encounter and respond thus generously and practically to Mr. Robinson's suggestion shows a capacity for mingled repentance and magnanimity which fills me with genuine admiration.

I feel sure that the subscription proposed by Dr. de Lespinasse and the princeley 'a which he starts it will inspire the readers of Liberty with such enthusiasm that the whole amount needed will be very speedily forthcoming. This amount is $800. Already one-fifth of it is pledged by a single man. Will not the other readers of the paper be able to raise the remaining four-fifths?

The proposed book will make at least 400 pages, in medium-sized type. Bound in cloth, it cannot be sold for less than one dollar. For every dollar subscribed to this publication fund I will give one cloth-bound copy of the book when published. Thus, Dr. de Lespinasse, for instance, will be entitled to one hundred copies. Any subscriber who has no use for all his copies can reclaim them to the fund, if he likes.

I hope that all who are able and willing to subscribe will do so promptly, in order that I may proceed with the preparation of the book. As soon as the subscriptions aggregate a sufficient amount to warrant publication, each subscriber will be asked to pay in half of the sum which he has promised, the balance to be paid on the appearance of the book.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

We, the undersigned, being of age, in case Benj. R. Tucker shall decide to publish in book form a compilation of articles written by him for his paper, Liberty, of purchase of him, at the rate of one dollar each, the number of copies herewith set opposite our respective names, and to pay to Benj. R. Tucker one-half the amount due for these copies whenever he shall call for it, and the balance on the appearance of the book.

G. A. F. DE LESPINASSE, Orange City, Iowa.

Enthusiasm and Tranquility.

Dear Mr. Tucker:

You will find nothing in my statements about enthusiasm to warrant any assumption that I do not think that passion should not be controlled to its highest ends in furthering the completion of the Race in the Individual and in perfecting the Individual in the Race. I merely protest generally that enthusiasm can neither be crushed nor discarded, and that it is a biological fact: that it is the love force from which our advancement as a scientific force depends, and that its disuse and neglect and degradation may proceed, the raw material for good or evil depending upon the will, motive, and chance of the weaver for development, or in Michael Field's words, it is "the law of the Tree of Life, the source and stability of all good Fruit.”

Tranquillity of soul, which you and Proudhon praise, is not inconsistent with enthusiasm, but permit me to point out that it too has its dangers of degenerating into a dead animosity in philosophy, a mind satisfied to repose upon the hard and fast line it apparently sees, forgetful of the real restless edgelessness of the Universe, or ignoring the indefinite and infinite scope for growth, for discovery, for energy, for love. Yours truly

MIRIAM DANIELL

To Miriam Daniell.

Miriam, tidy little niece of her old, who sang of liberty beside the sea,

When the oppressor's triumph suddenly
The Red Sea waters of deliverance rolled.

Alas! that freedom won should ever be sold!
Through anguish won, sold for a scurrilous fee.

But is not this the tale of liberty,
From age to age with clearer meaning told?

Yet here, O sister, is our consolation,
Mid horror, tyranny, and utter speech,
That more and more in every generation
Of men discern and to their children teach
That earth's one prize above all valuation
Is liberty itself, to all and each.

Henry Lyman Kegman.

Moral Susion by Electricity.

"Yes, boys," said the doctor, leaning back in his chair, "electricity has done wonderful things, but I suppose none of you ever heard of its changing a rug into a good and useful citizen.”

"Oh, do tell us about it!" cried Julius, the inventor, as his classmates had nicknamed him, for if there was any new machine to be invented, he wished to be the one to do it. "A moralization machine, especially! Was ever machine invented destined to change the whole social face of the world as a moralization machine?"

Now, to tell a story to a group of willing listeners was something Dr. Starr never refused to do, and it was touching to observe the childlike serenity that settled down upon his face as he began.

"It was about a year and a half ago. I had just had my office thoroughly renovated and fixed up after the latest style, a new marble staircase put in, and a lamp, which was considered quite an elegant affair, hung in the hall, at the head of the stairs. Early one afternoon, some boys knocked at the door. I opened it, and the influence of vegetable vapor, va-la! I was extracting some teeth for her. My assistant was also in the room. Suddenly all three of us—vegetable vapor notwithstanding—were enveloped in such a thick sheet of black smoke and acrid fumes — the hall and on the stairway, accompanied by the most unearthly shriek I ever heard from man or beast.

"I rushed out, ran against a step-ladder, which I did not step to account for, stumbled over a heap of debris, and finally reached the foot of the stairs, where a writing form was incessantly yelling: 'I am killed! I am killed! Help!'

"I was soon convinced that the fellow was more frightened than hurt, and set to work to calm him sufficiently to enable him to relate what had happened. Under the influence of the frigbt he readily confided that he had been attempting, under the guise of a workman, to steal my lamp in broad daylight. He had almost succeeded in taking it down, when, touching an electric wire, the current passed through his body, and he received a shock which set him headlong down the stairs, and my lamp, my elegant new lamp, crashing into a thousand fragments on the floor.

"The poor wretch was entirely unconscious. He was trembling from head to foot, and the look of horror on his face was simply indescribable. As I looked at him, my heart failed me to have him arrested. Certainly the State could not inflict the worse punishment on him than he had already received. And besides, I considered, had he succeeded in making away with my lamp, I would be minus a lamp, all the same, with vice-trimming.

"So I told him to shake himself together, and take himself away, which he did after I had opened the door for him; for he could not even turn the knob himself, with his shaking hands.

"The doctor passed, and Julius, the inventor, looked thoughtful, for he was already puzzling his ingenious brain, with the problem: if an electric shock, received at a decisive moment, can so change the organization of the brain as not to render it good, by what contrivance can an electric shock be administered to every bad man in the set of a Committee of Safety?"

But Albert, the lad with the big, loving heart, broke out enthusiastically, "Heaven sends you, doctor!"

(Continued on page 4.)
Liberty. 237

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"catch on." The bankers felt his interest threatened. The capitalist had visions of his income vanishing. And the hue-and-cry began. A few Republican editors started it. The attack was not slow in bringing the defense, and then it became plain, not indeed who first fastened the measure upon the Democratic party, but that at least in the Democratic party, were its friends. Congressman Harper of Ohio and Congressman Richardson of Tennessee had previously put themselves on record. Now came forward Congressman Joseph Quincy of Massachusetts (who by the way was present at the Round Table Club of Boston when I read my paper on "State Socialism and Anarchism," in which I lay great stress on the question of free money) to take the same side in his important capacity as a member of the Springfield Convention of the American Labor party, as well as his colleague, Congressman John E. Russell, who has lately pronounced himself squarely against all legal tender money whatsoever as undemocratic and invasive. These were promptly reinforced by one of the oldest and ablest of the Democratic editors, David M. Stone, whose remarkable article in the "Forum" has already been noticed in these columns at length,—the article in which he made the following significant statement: The project of repealing the present prohibitory tax on foreign coin, and the purpose of the State banks is a very hopeful movement in favor of a most welcome change in the financial condition of the country. The tax is in itself unconstitutional. It is not levied for revenue, but for prohibition; and the fundamental law nowhere gives to the Federal Congress the right to suppress by its action the issues of the State banks. There would follow from its repeal the most perfect currency for business purposes, the gold standard of the United States, free coinage of silver.

In addition to these individual utterances, there has been heard the authoritative voice of the Democratic National Committee itself. I have before me, as I write, pamphlet No. 7 of its campaign literature, specially prepared and printed by thousands for circulation among the farmers of the West. It bears these headings: "The Farmers and the Currency Question. More Money, Lower Interest, Fewer Mortgages, More Prosperity." It consists of eight closely printed pages, and is a very cleverly written campaign document. First reciting the just grievances of the farmers against the national bank system, it then proceeds to discuss remedies. It shows that the Republicans have nothing to offer except an extension of the present system for fifty years by the perpetuation of a vast national debt,—that is, by borrowing money that is not needed, in order that certain banks may have a monopoly of issuing notes. To the People's party the document gives more attention. It shows that free coinage of silver could not add enough to the volume of the currency to afford any relief, and would confer little benefit upon any but the mine-owners. It summarizes the arguments against greenbackism, and points out the Socialist character of the sub-treasury scheme, saying:

There cannot, upon any principle of justice, be claimed for the producers of wheat or cotton any right to government assistance not furnished to the producers of iron or coal. The outcome would be a series of government pawnshops, at which all products not needed for immediate consumption would be stored, with results which could not be imagined. The sound common sense and love of equal rights which characterize the American citizen will never tolerate such an absurd extension of the functions of government.

Hearing the determination of the Republicans to maintain private monopoly a banking and the intention of the People's party to substitute public monopoly, the document contrasts with this the individualist,—that is, the Anarchist—attitude of the Democratic party on the financial question and the means by which it proposes to satisfy just demand for more money without resorting to tyranny. It tells us in the following words the reasons why the free money plank was placed in the platform:

The leaders and members of the Democratic party believe that the farmer's demand for more money is a just one. They believe that our currency system should be sufficiently elastic to adjust itself to the growing business interests of the country, and that therefore the right to issue notes should not be confined to a privileged few, but ought under proper safeguards to be extended to all banks. They believe that the present system is unjust, monopolistic, and oppressive, inasmuch as it uses the power of the Federal Government to tax out of existence the notes of State banks. They believe that its establishment was a mistake, its maintenance a failure, and its abolition certain. They believe that not only the farmers, but merchants, manufacturers, workmen, every class and individual in the nation, would benefit by the increased prosperity which would flow from the free coinage of silver. They acknowledge that the economic issues of the campaign are more money and less taxes, and that they are determined to secure both blessings for the people by abolishing the war taxes now levied on money and on goods.

And much more of the same sort, which I would quote but for lack of space,—among other things a specific recognition of the truth of the Anarchist claim that all products have an equal right with gold and silver to representation in the currency.

Of course it was to be expected that in answer to this excellent doctrine the old chestnut would be trotted out, the cry of "wild-cat banks." But no friend of free money looked for such good fortune as the giving of the post of honor to this backhanded cry by the chief of the Republican party. President Harrison, in discussing and vehemently attacking the Democratic free money plank at the very opening of his letter of acceptance, has completed the work, begun by the Democrats, of causing the campaign to hinge on the question of freedom versus restriction in finance. Close at his heels follows Blaine, with his letter narrowing the issues to two,—protection or free trade, national banks or "wild-cat" banks.

So unexpectedly serious has the situation thus become that the Democrats hardly know whether to fight or run away. Of course those who were instrumental in quietly springing this issue want to fight and are fighting. But other sections of the party are in a panic. Matthew Marshall, the New York "San" cracker financial editor, writes a column and a half in the pages of that professingly Democratic paper, in which he says:

As a good Democrat, desiring the success of my party in the coming fall elections, I must confess that I regret its having been even apparently committed to a measure which seems to me to be so unwise as the adoption to our already redundant paper money of a mass of State bank notes unlimited in amount and necessarily of varying current values. The action in the Chicago platform which does this must, I think, have been adopted without due consideration, and I hope that Mr. Cleveland, in his forthcoming letter of acceptance, will not only state it as his approval, but distinctly repudiate it.
The hope is probably vain. I have the very best authority for stating that Mr. Fairchild, who was Secretary of the Treasury under Cleveland and is reasonably sure to hold that post again in the event of Cleveland's election, is heartily in favor of the free-banking plank, which makes it justifiable to suppose that Cleveland holds a similar view. But even if he does not, it is difficult to see how, in a letter of acceptance, he can repudiate a plank so unequivocally.

No, the Democrats are in for it, and they must face the music, at least to the end of the campaign. For the next two months they are virtually Anarchists. They are shouters for that fundamental freedom from which all the other freedoms are sure to flow,—for free money, the necessary precursor and sure guarantee of free trade, free land, free ideas, free thought, free speech, free love, and free life.

Is the Democratic party worthy of so grand a mission? Can it be faithful to it? Do I not believe it? I believe that that is the true mission of the Democrats. Will the country come to Anarchist views? I cannot answer this question. But I do believe that, in the Democratic platform, the country is sure to find a platform which will not only enable it to face the terrible crisis which hangs over it, but which will enable it to face the crisis in a manner which will enable it to carry the crisis off successfully.
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