South Bend, Dec. 27th 1878.

My dear friend Lysander Spooner,

I have recd your kind letter of the 20th inst. It was just like you, my dear friend, to write to me and say to me what you did. I know you will believe me when I tell you that *many* and *many a time* it has been a deep desire of my heart to act toward you and some others in the manner you so generously and lovingly indicated your desire to act toward me.

I presume you are not a little surprised to receive direct from me some proof that I am not yet quite dead. I will tell you harm[?] I cam to enclose the newspaper strips to you. I happened to see in the "Banner of Light" a letter of yours on the character of Dr. Gardner. As old friends die off so rapidly, I felt by no means sure that you were still among the living and to be assured of the certainty of that face made me feel really glad. I immediately concluded to reciprocate the happiness by sending you a memento that I also was living still, and that I have no notion of dying yet a while, and I will add that my health was never better in my life than it is at present, and that my heart is as young and as loving as ever. I can still even entertain my company with ____ as Jocund[?] as when we were at the Graham House. Another item of news in your letter made me feel happy. You mentioned that among some of my other old friends that John Curtis was well, I had the most positive assurance that last summer from a Temperance lecturer named Welch, who claimed to be from Boston and acquainted with Curtis, that John was dead and buried. My heart was schrouded in mourning for days after being thus informed or rather, as I hope, misinformed, for it must not be mistaken what you wrote. When I learned from your letter that Curtis was well, it appeared to me like his resurrection from the dead. If the goof fellow is still living congratulate him that he that is not yet dead – You know I presume that one old dear[?] from Cleveland is gone.

I send you the blessings of this place in which you may read an account of a “Mrs. Richardson” who lectured here a few weeks since. We were both “billed” at the same time, to lecture – she on one enemy and I on the following one. Only think of it! One coming to present herself before the public, well knowing that I was here. I sat directly in front of her on the front seat. I never caught her eye once, and neither did any of the __. Since she gazed on ____ over their heads. The woman is incomprehensible to me. She is either insane or litterly inhuman or rather unhuman.

My dear appreciative friend, I am astonished at myself when I think how much I have lived under the burden of suffering which I have earned during the past ten years. I have learned, Lysander, that a person suffers in this world from his virtues as well as
from his vices, but there is a great difference between the power of evidence in these two cases. One is a sublime and purifying experience, while the other degrades and leads to worse than death. Conscious integrity in _____ and suffering, is a sustaining friend.

I have written you quite a long letter and have not told you one thousandth part of what I should if I were with you for one hour.

I have read your pamphlet with much interest and so did others. I will keep you posted[?] of what I am doing from time to time.

Your friend,
Daniel McFarland.

Texarkana, Arkansas, March 21, 1881

My dear friend Lysander,

Your letter to St, Sonis(?) in response to my postal card arrived in due time. To say that your letter gave me much pleasure would be an expression in ____ turns if conveys to you the idea of the delight it gave me. It had been so long since I had heard from you that I was by no means sure that you were still alive as we are both getting old and the sands of life are running fast through the glass.

I went on holiday to the state of Texas, just across the street from Arkansas the dividing line running through the city; the postal office bring in Arkansas.

I presume you wonder how I came here and what brought me here, I can not tell myself, except by answering fate! On, On, On, like the wandering Jun I am driven. Where I shall finally end up, I know not. I hope however, a heart for my end Every fate.

I shall remain hear at least as for about two weeks. I should like to hear from you before I leave for parts unknown to me at present.
If I ever have the delight to meet you, my dear Spooner, I will recount to you my most fabulous adventures, Tragedy and Comedy combined; and I have come through safe.

In order to avoid the great notoriety which follows me wherever I go, I have taken the name of Daniel O’Brien for the present, by which name you will address me if you write to me while I am here.

Remember the address, Texarkana, Arkansas,

Your Dear Friend, 

Dan’l McFarland

Rec’d, August 12, 1881

My dear friend Lysander,

Your postal card of the 28th all came dirty to hand. I was glad to hear from you again, learning thereby that you were still among the living. Every time I hear from you, giving me the assurance, as it does of the fact, that you, my old staunch friend, whom I appreciate and love better I am sure, than any other friend I have in existence, are not yet among the departed, gives me strength and courage to continue to fight out this hard battle of life. You are aware, my Lysander, that one cannot love any in this uncertain world, greatly, without that love being accompanied with the painful solicitude in regard to the health and the continued life of that person whom we so love. We are, both of us, fast declining into the
scar and yellow leaf"; we have far outlived the average years of man’s life, and besides your mentioning to me in a letter, when I was in Texarkana, that you were now “carrying the weight of seventy three years” and expected before long to give up business in this life in order to enter another sphere of existence, stating at the same time that your health had not been good of late, has caused me to feel by no means certain that your will be there among the living to answer my letter when ever I now write to you. I hope, however, that my fears in this respect are not warranted.

You also told me in the letter to which I have just referred that the world was still using you as it had for many years.

Is it not painfully sorrowful and maddening Lysander, the reflect that you who have worked hard and given so much valuable thoughts to the world have been kept in poverty as a reward for what you have done for it, and have received so little of life enjoyment for which you have had so large an inward capacity to received. When I think of the vast wealth that ignorance and selfishness hords up without capacity of enjoying, either used upon themselves or bestowing it on others more worthy, I feel that burglary and highway robbery is but a protest of poetic justice on the trageous state of things.

I should very much like to come to Boston to live to see you and some others of my old friends there. But I can’t see my every by which I could now live there. I am not able even to make a transitory visit. My income of living have been for many years, not counting, precarious and multifarious, and I see nothing in the future much more encouraging.

Give my regards to my friend Curtis when you see him. Is Mrs. C. still alive? If she is, I think it wonderful how she has held onto the thread of life so long invalid as she has been for so many years. I should be glad to hear that she is and in no worse health than when I last saw her.

I shall soon leave here & would like to hear from you before then.

Yours as ever,
My dear old friend Lysander Spooner,

I suppose you have given up hearing from me any more. I can assure you, however, I have punished myself, not a little, by my procrastinating writing to you. To give any reason for this
delinquency might appear ridiculous; but I know you will appreciate the umack(?) that circumstances are not always favourable toward even writing a letter to a friend.

I met George Clapp in the city a couple of days ago and was glad to hear from him that you were still alive and well. He informed me that you have been making an “advance” on President Cleveland as you had been doing on Bajard(?). I would like to have you send me some of the missiles you have been firing at him. By the way, Spooner, I take you to be an anarchist of moral suasion; am I right? Or rather that you would advocate the abolition of all human law that Natural Law might work unimpeded. At all events, don’t fail to send me some of the letters you have been writing to Cleveland, I always take an interest in everything you write.

Let me know, when you write, all you know about Anna, and about John Curtis. George Atkins, I presume is still in Boston. And Leack, what has become of him? Where is Blind Bowen? About all the rest of the old Graham House, are scattered or dead I believe.

My health, as usual, is uniformly excellent; I begin to feel, however, the weight of years, and yet it seems so short a time since I was a young man. Such no doubt is the experience of every one when grown old.

Address 54 W. 26th St., care if Dr. W. McFarland.

Yours Truly as ever,

Daniel McFarland

South Bend, Ind.  Feb.16th 1879

My dear friend Lysander,
I have rec’d your three last letters; also your pamphlets in Banking and the “New Age.” I have delayed writing to you till I have read all that you sent me on the currency question. Your articles “What is a dollar” & e I read with a great deal of interest in profit.

You wish me to write you what I think of your scheme of Banking. I had read your first theory on Banking when you first published it. I was not then that interested on the finance question. I have given it some ___ during these latter days. I agree with you entirely to your idea of the functions and the great ____ of paper money over gold and silver as a currency. The latter we know is a sham and an impossibility, and would be objectioned =, even if there were an abundance of it for the purpose I think you have shown up the species(?) basis system in its true light as well as Swindleing manner in which banking on that system has been carried on.

If it is necessary to have banks of issue at all, I am convinced that the Real-Estate basis is the best that can be devised. The former systems of having state stocks, and gold as ______ (uncopathically?) system applied system for banking basis, to say nothing of their swindling features, are simply absurd, when compared with your plan. I feel assured that the country will never return to those “wild cat” systems again. Our national banks although, safe compared with the old style of bank “must go,” and that before the ___.

I have become what they call a “Green Banker.” I am for an__ paper currency and nothing else unless silver for small change, as a matter of convenience. Unless the Government can issue all the paper money we need -several billions, redeeming it for taxes and customs from day to day, your system, I think, must be adopted. I don’t see, however, how the government could get this out among the people, it could not give it to them for nothing, and it does not ___ supplier like to any thing that amount. I can see, I am willing to confess, no means by which we can have a sufficient amount of currency but by the system of “Free Banking.” I believe with you, that the amount of currency should be limited only by the needs and demands of the people and think you have shown the “per capita” principle to be unsound. I would \like to converse with you on this question of finance. There are many questions I should like to ask you, which would require a much greater space with which to write
them, than that of a sheet of paper.

I have written this in a hurry surrounded by about a half a hundred of noisy people in a German Biere(?) room, no other sitting room in the house, so I have by no means expressed clearly what I have desired to say-

If I ever see you Spooner, I have a tale of heroic suffering to tell you, enough to have crushed beyond ____, not even this person, but I ____ .... And I have more room. It cheers my heart to hear from you. Yours as Ever, D. McFarland

Envelope

Return in 10 days

John F. Kirby
Attorney at Law
South Bend, Ind.

Daniel McFarland
Feb 3 1879

SPECIAL

Lysander Spooner
Boston, Mass

South Bend, Ind. Feb 3, 1879
My Dear Friend Lysander Spooner,

I rec’d your postal card, informing me of your receipt of my letter, and that you had called on my dear friend John Curtis and found him well and living, and also my old friend Bowan with him. I was by no means sure, from information I had had, that he was not dead, till your postal arrived.

I am also afraid to enquire about Mrs. Curtis, for I am aware that she has been out of health for years. I have been surprised that she remained alive and so cheerful during the many years that she has been an invalid. I say “has been,” trusting that she is still living. I always regarded her as a good, charming and lovely woman, and it would be with a profound sorrow that should hear of her death. John had also a charming daughter whom I hoped he has still, and that she is well and happy. I send my love to John and all belonging to him. I have been expecting a letter from him, and also from Bowen, every day since you informed me they would write to me. I should be well pleased to hear from them, and I wish you would remind them of the expectation they raised in my mind, not yet realized, when you see them.

What has become of my old friend Haskell? I haven’t seen him or heard from him in nearly twenty years. If he has any money to spare, I should be pleased if he would send me some. I don’t know how many 10’s, 20’s, and 50’s I let him have. I have never yet ___ him, but I would like now to have even a small part of what he owes me, and without any interest for I am in need of it at the present moment.

I have read your pamphlets carefully and I have been interested and instructed much by the deep and logical thought in them. The one on the “Law of Prices: is a demonstration of that law. I let others read them, who expressed their high appreciation of them.

Do you know, Spooner, that your “Trial by Jury” has been, in a measure, accepted in some of the western states, in Illinois, Indiana, to my knowledge at least, the juries in criminal cases, although not allowed to be the Judge of the law as well as some one to furnish the means, go out along with the fact, have the right to be determine what the punishment of the criminal shall be, which, I should think, amounts to the same thing.
This place will be my headquarters for, perhaps, a little while to come. In fact I am not able to get any away unless I become a regular “Tramp.” I have met with a good German Hotel keeper who has let me run up a bill for board to the amount of nearly two hundred dollars, without ever asking m to settle, in fact, he told me remain “right along” and “say nothing about it.” I have a couple of lectures, one of which I have delivered twice in South Bend, a flattering call from the citizens of the place, appearing in the papers, for its reputation, in the Every day that the Richardson woman lectures here. I have also given Readings a number of times here and in the vicinity. -The trouble however is that it requires capital, which I have not got, to get a fair start in the business. I have been trying to get some one to furnish the means, go out accomplish and also to share the profits, but no go yet. Your dear friend, D. McFarland

Envelope

36 West 26th Street
New York

Daniel McFarland

April 9th 1884

Lysander Spooner
109 Myrtle St.
Boston, Mass

36 West 26th Street,
New York

N.Y. April 9th 1884
My D. Lysander,

You must not think that you are forgotten because I have not written to you lately. Let me know if you are alive and well. & whether you have made any “advance” lately — if so send to me the pamphlet. I often think of you & as often talk about you to my friends, many of whom have both heard and know of you. My dear friend you are the dearest friend I have left on this earth. How is Curtis? How is Bowen? & also Anna? I long to be in Boston to see you all. Now do write me all about yourself & your present situation. Lysander – all our friends are dead – Phillips – Garrison – Foster – Clapp & many – many more, also those noble ones. Emerson & Longfellow. I wish to live to meet you once again this side of the dead-line. Are you in love again? My heart is almost broken but 'tis not cold. Would you please write me soon –

Your Old Friend,

Dan’l McFarland

Sept. 17th 1854

Dear Friend Spooner,

I was as much surprised as I was highly delighted in receiving a letter from you a few days ago. The joy was not unmingled with some gratitude towards you as I felt that I had a bit if worry to expecting you to write ... simply this: that in writing you the [FADED]

Point which you conducted equal to death itself. I was obliged, however, to figure partly closely in order to get out here but since my arrival, I cannot say that I have been any way distressed for want or worries, although it has been coming in to me rather more slowly that I expected before leaving the East. I have been here six months and I have just about money enough — all told — to carry me
back, not to “Old Virginia”, but to old Boston. My friend Johnson was entirely too sanguine in the inducements held out for me to come to Wisconsin. The A__ which I have been teaching here began with me and after two terms, has carded with my retiring from its head, those not having sufficient materials in the place to support an academy - most all Dutch, or rather Germans. I shall leave Sauk City in a few days more, not knowing however at what place I shall next come to a stand. At all events, my route shall be towards the rising sun. I am going to try to earn some money by giving Dramatic Readings and Recitations. I have some hope that I can do quite well at the business. I have tried on two occasions, and made about two dollars each time. Notwithstanding this encouragement at commencing it is quite a precarious and unreliable source of income.

Sauk City is not so large a place as I expected to find - about a thousand inhabitants, nine tenths of which are Germans. Consequently, the society is very far from what I desire.

The Cholera has been making terrible havoc amongst us during the frost season. In the village and in the prairie around us probably lost ten per cent of the population have been ___ off by it. We have three cases in the house where I am boarding, two of which proved fatal; one being the ___ and the other, Mrs. Johnson, wife of my friend, J.W. Johnson. I believe you have heard me speak of this inestimable lady, she was I think the most beautiful, intelligent, interesting and lovely woman that I ever was acquainted with. We stood almost in the relation of brother and sister to each other. I cannot think of her without much sadness and poor Mr. Johnson has closed his business here, and ___ _____ with me.

As regards politics in Wisconsin, it is the opinion that the Republican Party will be in the ascendancy after the fall election. I have been doing a little against their victories Fugitive slave Law and by way of contributing an article now and then to the Pioneer. Against the ___ and occasionally making a speech. I attended a Republican meeting last week held about fifteen miles from this place. I made a speech on the occasion and as much as a delegate to the State ____ was to meet for the purpose of nominating members of Congress. I however believe that there were other persons much more ably qualified to represent the people in Convention than Nevas Oke (?) incl taking upon me that responsibility. This is the first political referment that was ever ____ to me. It was however on about the first occasion of my having any thing to do in public with politics. You wish me to let you
know all about myself, this little account I foresee me may come in:

After leaving here, I will keep you appraised of my were-abouts to find my living. In the meantime I wish you would learn whether my brother is still in Boston. You can find out at Baker’s factories in Carrit St. If he has left, they can probably tell you where he has gone. I have had the greatest desire to send him some money since I have been here, but have been unable to do so. I should be swnd him some over, if I am anyway successful in the efforts that I am going to make, as mentioned above. I can truly say that I feel much more able to earn money on his account than on my own.

I have read your “Trial by Jury” partly .. and have learned a great deal from it. Mr. Johnson also read it and thought it as it most certainly is a very learned work, Your remarks on Tyranny of Majorities I think are powerful and truthful ___ ___ ___ rights of Minorities is not solved by you, must yet be solved before the question of “Democracy” is solved. I feel guilty & desirious to read your book on the ___ train and shall purchase it it for that purpose as soon as I am in a place where in is sold

As regards poor Anna, I have no better feeling against her but I don’t want her. —I have often “queried” to “that letter” of yours what I would call forth. What I have not said in this I will in my next. You will hear from me again soon. Think of me. As ever yours D’l McFarland