

Summit Point

Jefferson County W. Va.

Sept 30th 1871

Lysander Spooner esq.

My Dear Sir,

I rec'd duly your very kind letter in answer to mine & am truly obliged to you & to your friend Mr Austin for the favor you have rendered me.

Will you present to him my sincere thanks for the translations sent, & especially for his beautiful poem Pompeii & his translations of A____. I had never seen before any fragments of A_____ & shall treasure them with great regard. His original thought of what "constitutes a state", paraphrased by Sir William Jones - would of itself entitle him to immortality? I shall, show Mr Austin's two versis to a gentleman of our county Mr Daniel B Lucas who has written many pretty thinkgs & as a brother poet will highly enjoy them. Present me again most kindly to Mr Austin, & say to him, if even he comes to VaI should be most happy to see him & read the "Knights" alternately with him in the original, fully concurring with him in the opinion expressed in his note that it is "admirably descriptive of one condition & worth studying so descriptive of the present." All the comedies of Aristophanes are worthy the studies of statesmen, but the "Knights" especially. In it - the "Knights" tho "Atlant____" ot "sausage-sellers" would I think ____ your rejected candidate for Governor as well as the translation of the _____ send ____ Grant. The gentleman enquired after by Mr Austin was R Thompson, I think, a member of that big family name using the p, which I think distinguishes the English from the Scotch Thomsons. I habe met with him, but he is not a relative of mine. My grandfather was a scotch Episcopal person who came, before the revolution, to this country, in 1869, & lived & died on the _____ for him in Fauquin County Virginia. I have many of his books & poems that circumstance, perhaps, acquired a fondness for the languages.

I shall look forward with great interest to the treatise on money you are engaged on, & have no doubt, from your zeal & earnestry & ability inall I have read of your valuable writings, that you will ____ the subject fully. No subject moreal, religious, or political can be of more importance. Upon the proper cases of money delpends the future wellfare & advance of man! I have had sent to me "an essay on production, money, & government; in which the principle of natural law is advanced & explained, whereby credit, debt, _____, & interest on money will be abolished; & national debt & the current expenses of Government will be paid in _____" By

William Alexander Thomspn. I his preface he hails from Fort Erie Canada. From his name & the Alexander in it - a family name - I respect him to be a kinsman. He & I certainly agree in the conclusion that there should be no interest! I have read _____ the essay, & intend reading it more carefully - enough so to form an opinion of it. He may be had at the printing house of Wheeler, Matthews, & Warren, common _____ advertiser _____. Buffalo." If you desire to see it, & should not get a copy, I will send you mine with pleasure.

From the last article I sent you, you will suspect me of repudiation. I do say it would not surprise me, if in the next two years, the cry of repudiation of the _____ of credits should be more loud than the cry of abolition.

If negro slavery was a matter of force, all that part of the billions of credits accumulated by _____ in not "recirculating[?] the value of money" is a matter of _____; & of course, as obnoxious to justice as force. The one was the visible & black slavery, by force. The other is now a _____ that can be felt, & is hopelessly white slavery. When assailed, I don't think it will find as many to fight for it, as for black slavery

You must pardon me for not answering your kind letter sooner, as I have been from home -very truly yours

Jon A Thomson.