

Summit Point, Jefferson County

west va, Dec' 17th 1877

Lysander Spooner esq

My Dear Sir,

I rec'd both your pamphlets - one some time heretofore - & the last - "the law of prices" - recently. I read both with much profit & profound interest, & especially the last, in which you asset principles & base them on mathematical _____, that foreshadow the solution of that cunningly mystified question of exchanges, & afford hope to humanity of being enabled to exchange their labor & productions upon principles of honesty & justice.

To effect this, there is one thing to be done; the thorough & complete extermination of usury! There are two modes of accomplishing this result: the one is to punish it as a forgery or murder. The other is to render it unprofitable[sic], by a sufficiency of the exchanging _____ to do all the exchanges for cash. This made your reason to prefer, & I dare say it is best. I send you, by mail, a letter of mine to the Charleston, Greenback, convention in west va, in which I quote Comstock's[?] plan, & I think you will see he is working in the same direction with you; & I agree with you both. The most ingenious piece _____ of swindlugs over practiced upon unsatisfactory ifnorance, is our present money - system. It punished just enough to be monopolized & contracted into a few hands & localities; compels two-thirds of the exchanges to their private credit to effect their exchanges; & thus enables specially favored individuals, corporations, & localities, by bringing them to the _____ of their false God, & _____, Gold, to crucify, rob, & plunder them at pleasure.

The people, thank God, are now beginning to understand this wickedness, & will submit to it no longer. Money is "power", "the power" of the whole people, & in this 19th century century [sic] they know that power may be exerted, by their _____, thro' a piece of paper, as well as gold, & they will no longer suffer individuals, coporations, or localities, to compel them to exchange billions of animal productions, at a cost & tax of thousand millions out of their pockets & earnings, when their own "execution money power" can effect the same thing for nothing: for upon Compstock's plan, they can do it for 3 per cent; & as that goes into their own treasury, & would lighten _____, you may say they effect, thro' cooperation, their exchanges for nothing.

Every man, whether farmer, manufacturerm or merchant, should have sacred all his private rights, but the public rights of money, _____, insurance, telegraphy patents, should as public rights be

managed by governmental beaureaus for the common interest of all the common & joint owners. These vigilantly & properly managedm would defray & more able _____ of government, & leave all men to the untamed engagement of all their private rights & earnings. All of the ills, & confustion, of man & governments, grow out of the failure to distinguish properly between what are private rights & what are public, common, & joint rights. Hence it is, you hear the monopolizing knaves cry out, inflatin, agrarianism, communism &, as they are not content with their private rights, but want also, all the public rights: Like the churlish husband who proclaimed to his wife "that all hers was his, & all his was his own."

As before said, I think the people begin to understang this game, & mean to end it. They want no violence, no revolution. They know they have been plundered; & are willing to let "by-gones be by-gones"; if the rule of accumulation for the future is made even & fair, they will work up to it; but unless this compromise is accepted, woe to the wicked who force upon them a revolution! Please present my best regard to out friend Mr Austin, & believe me, with amny thanks for your able pamphlets, very truly yours Jn A Thomson