
The Future (July 16, 1898)

To the Social Democratic Party.

Comrades:—

That I have not earlier sent greeting to my comrades is due to prolonged indisposition. The incessant work and travel of more than 20 years have temporarily placed me *hors de combat*.¹ But only temporarily. With returning health and strength my work will be continued. It is not a little disquieting to have to “let go,” even for a little while, when there is such urgent need for action.

The separation at the late convention was inevitable. It had to come. The contemplation of division was painful, as only those can fully realize who were party to it. But painful as it was, the operation had to be performed. And it was a success, for the Social Democratic Party of America lives. All the members are full fledged socialists. They are in accord with the program of international socialism. There is not only in the number opposed to independent political action, not one that asks or expects anything from any old capitalist party, by whatever name it may be called.

There is harmony. There is oneness of purpose, there is true-hearted fidelity to principle, there is unrelaxing energy, and these qualities in alliance presage success.

So I contemplate the course of events with serenity.

Had there not been division now there would have been disaster later. The proceedings demonstrated beyond all question that conciliation was not possible, and had there not been absolute divorce of the antagonistic elements the organization would have gone to certain destruction.

There are those in the Social Democracy who yet believe that it is possible to “harmonize” and conquer. They are welcome to all the success their efforts may achieve. I have had all the experience along that line my constitution will stand.

I am with and for the Social Democratic Party of America. As a socialist it pleases me to make this avowal of my faith in the new

organization. The branch of which I am a member has unanimously taken the same action, and this fall a complete SDP ticket will be placed in the field.

The hundreds of kind communications I have received since my illness are appreciated more than words can express, and appeal to every fiber of my being for renewed efforts in the noble cause of Socialism.

Eugene V. Debs.

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¹ *Out of the fight.*