Letter of Acceptance of the Nomination
for President of the United States
(July 31, 1900)

Terre Haute, Ind., July 31, 1900.

William Butscher,
National Secretary,
Social Democratic Party
Springfield, Mass.

My Dear Comrade:—

Your communication of the 18th instant [July 18, 1900] has been re-
ceived, and I note that by the election of the unity committee, elected at
the Rochester and Indianapolis conventions, approved by referendum
vote, my nomination has been ratified as candidate of the Social Demo-
ocratic Party for the office of President of the United States. Permit me to
return my thanks to the committee and the comrades they represent for the
ratification of my nomination, which I esteem a signal honor.

Having responded to the call of my comrades in accepting the nomi-
ination of their confidence and partially bestowed upon me, I am deeply
sensible of the responsibilities which rest upon me as a socialist candidate
for the office of President of the United States. Fully imbued with the phi-
losophy of socialism, I seek no personal preferment and I claim consider-
atation of as a representative of the principles of international, class-con-
scious socialism. In that capacity and that alone, I appeal to the working
class and my countrymen for their support. The confidence implied by the
unanimous action of my comrades moves me to regret my limitations and
to wish myself a worthier representative of the principles so sacred to them
because fraught with such grave import to the countless victims struggling
in the grasp of economic bondage.

But all the strength and ability I have are at their service. Long since I
consecrated myself to the cause, and all I have laid with joy on the altar of
socialism. As we look abroad we behold the steady and stately march of
transformation. Capitalism, which has written its record in the tears and
blood of the human race, is staggering to its doom, while socialism, herald
of right and freedom, quickened by the spirit of the new revolution, is
sweeping over all the world.

Here in the United States of America we are on the eve of our first
great battle. Let us gird on our armor and press forward to meet the ene-
mies of freedom, the oppressors of the people, the exploiters of the work-
ing class, and the foes of all humanity. Let us dismiss all minor consider-
ations and unite in every state and territory from end to end of the land, in
one mighty effort to hasten the end of capitalism and the inauguration of
the cooperative commonwealth.

Thanking you again and through you the members of your committee
and all your comrades for the honor conferred upon me, I remain

Yours fraternally,

Eugene V. Debs.

As published in Scranton Republican, vol. 33 (Aug. 6, 1900), pg. 1. Variant wire service
version preserved in Papers of Eugene V. Debs microfilm collection, reel 9. Handwritten
corrections in the scrapbook edition silently added here.