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**Circular Letter to Local Units  
of the American Railway Union  
(circa June 2, 1895)  
[excerpt]**

A cruel wrong against our great and beloved order, perpetrated by William A. Woods, United States Circuit Judge, has been approved by the United States Supreme Court. Our order is still the undaunted friend of the toiling masses and our battle cry now as ever is the emancipation of labor from degrading, starving, and enslaving conditions. We have not lost faith in the ultimate triumph of truth over perjury, of justice over wrong, however exalted may be the stations of those who perpetuate the outrages.

I need not remind you, comrades of the American Railway Union, that our order in the pursuit of the right was confronted with a storm of opposition such as never beat upon a labor organization in all time. The battle fought in the interest of starving men, women, and children stands forth in the history of labor's struggles as the great "Pullman Strike." It was a battle on the part of the American Railway Union, fought for a cause as holy as ever aroused the courage of brave men.

What has been your reward for your splendid courage and manifold sacrifices? Our enemies say they are summed up in one word, "Defeat." They point to the battlefield and say, "Here is where the American Railway Union went down before confederated enemies of labor." Brothers of the American Railway Union even in defeat our rewards are grand. True it is that the sons of brutish force and darkness, who have drenched the earth with blood, chuckle over their victories. They point to the blacklisted heroes of the American Railway Union, idle and poor, and count upon their surrender. Their hope is that our order will disband; that persecution, poverty, and prison will do the work.

In this supreme juncture I call upon the members of the American Railway Union to stand by their order. In God's own good time we will make the despots' prisons, where innocent men suffer, monumental.