

The More I Think of It, The Hotter My Blood Becomes:
Letter to Fred D. Warren in Girard, Kansas
(February 5, 1910)

Hamilton, Ohio, Feb. 5th, 1910.

My Dear Fred:—

Enclosed I hand you letter just received from [Ricardo Flores] Magón.¹ The more I think of this case the hotter my blood becomes. I can hardly restrain myself. It is the most important case before the American continent. The more I think of it the more convinced I am that this is the case for the *Appeal* to open its batteries on as soon as it can clear its decks. If you can win this fight your own is won in advance and you can fight a thousand times better for others than you can fight for yourself.

The outrages already perpetrated against these noble souls staggers belief. If there is a drop of fighting blood in a man's carcass this case puts him on the warpath. Just think of these grand heroes being already three years shut up in dungeons and tied up in convicts' stripes! Compared to this a mere jail sentence is a May Day excursion. If the *Appeal* can tell this story in bold, striking, sensational style we can start a conflagration of protest that will make hell pop about the ears of the American Plutocracy, and we can at least prevent the rearrest of these comrades when they are released. I am ready to unsheath my sword and take my stand at the head of the army in this fight. I am willing to stake all I have and lose all I have upon this issue.

The terms expire July 31st. The country must be aroused before that time. the grandest opportunity in the history of the *Appeal* is now looming before it in the Mexican cases. This fight will not detract from your fight but will be the making of it and ensure victory for both.²

Yours always,

Debs

[P.S.] Mailing you paper from Ashland, Ohio — they gave us great send-off.

Typed letter, signed, with handwritten postscript. Copy in *Papers of Eugene V. Debs* microfilm edition, reel 1, frames 728-729. Not included in Constantine (ed.), *Letters of Eugene V. Debs: Volume 1, 1874-1912*.

¹ Debs had recently received a handwritten letter from the US Territorial Prison at Florence, Arizona from jailed Mexican radical political dissident Richard Flores Magón. In it Magón predicted that pressure of the brutal Porfirio Díaz regime in Mexico would lead to the immediate arrest of himself and his comrades upon the completion of their sentence for violation of the neutrality act later in 1910. Reminding Debs that he had already spent three years in prison, Magón pleaded: "I am asking you and comrades Wayland and Warren to reopen the fight in the *Appeal* before it may be too late." See: Magón to EVD, Jan. 13, 1910, in Constantine (ed.), *Letters of Eugene V. Debs: Vol. 1*, pp. 327-329. Magón would ultimately die in federal custody at Leavenworth prison in 1922 at the age of 48, a victim of the Espionage Act of 1917.

² For a short note by Debs indicating that Warren received this suggestion from Debs positively, see EVD to Warren, Feb. 8, 1910 in Constantine (ed.), *Letters of Eugene V. Debs: Vol. 1*, p. 341.