

Mr. William C. McDowell.

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Organizer of and  
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Sons of the American Revolution,

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Address answer to  
120 Liberty Street,  
New York, U.S.A.

Long Room, Fraunces' Tavern,  
New York, June 17th, 1890,  
Bunker Hill Day.

My dear Sir:-

This is Bunker Hill Day and I am writing you and a number of other representative gentlemen patriotic to American Institutions, asking their counsel on the following suggestions.

Not only in the United States, but in the other countries of the world, there are a number of great patriotic Societies, devoted to the principles that a century ago resulted in the birth of these United States. John Knox, Martin Luther, Oliver Cromwell and the other strong men of their way of thinking, were, like John the Baptist, the forerunners of this movement. April 30th, 1779, with the inauguration of George Washington, as the first president of the United States, was the natal day. With April 30th, 1889, the opportunity had come for the first time, in the world's history, when man's ability to govern himself could be judged from the standpoint of a century of practical tests. On that day, in this room, were gathered the representatives descended from the men of 1776 to 1789, and here was created the National Society of the "Sons of the American Revolution". The suggestions that I wish to submit to you and on which I wish you would advise me, are these:

1st. Has not the time come for the issuing of an invitation to the patriotic Societies of the world, devoted to the principle of government, based upon our Declaration of Independence, to each send one or more delegates to attend a Pan Republic Congress?

2nd. Should not the government of each Republic in the World be invited also to send one or more delegates?

3rd. Is not Washington, D. C., the place to hold this Pan Republic Congress?

4th. Should it not be held April 30th, 1891, the one hundred and second anniversary of our Government, or April 30th, 1892, which is not only the one hundred and third anniversary of our Government, but the four hundredth anniversary of the Discovery of America.

5th. What form shall this Congress take? Of course every member will be expected to make a full report of the progress made in his country, and of the difficulties still in the way of making a Democracy a universal blessing. Shall the work of the Congress stop there or shall it adopt recommendations?

6th. How shall the expense of this Pan Republic Congress be borne? That is, by the Governments alone or by individual, Society and Government contributions?

7th. By whom shall the invitations to this Congress be issued? by the National Officers of the "Sons of the American Revolution", by the "Order of the American Eagle", by the United States Government, or by myself as the Chairman of the original organizing committee of the Sons of the American Revolution?

8th. Do you object to any one of the following Governments or Societies being invited to send delegates, if so, please state your reasons.

The Republic of Switzerland, of the United States, of France, of the Argentine Republic, of Bolivia, of Brazil, of Chili, of the United States of Columbia, of Costa Rica, of the Dominican Republic, of Ecuador, of Guatamala, of Hayti, of Honduras, of Liberia, of Nicaragua, of Peru, of San Salvador, of Transvaal, of Uruguay, of Venezuela?

The "Society of the Cincinnati", the "Sons of the American Revolution", the "Order of the American Eagle," the "Loyal Legion of America", the "Grand Army of the Republic", the "Confederate Veterans Association", the "Sons of Veterans, U.S.A." the "Patriotic Order of Sons of America", the "Order of Free and Accepted Masons" in the United States, the "Order of Odd Fellows", in the United States, the "American Institute of Christian Philosophy", the "Knights of Labor", the "Order of American Mechanics", the "Federation of Trades", "Sons of the German Revolution of 1848", the "Order of United Irishmen", the "Daughters of the American Revolution", the "Colonial Dames of America", the "Scotch-Irish Society of America", the "Huguenot Society of America", and the "Order of the Iron Hand"?

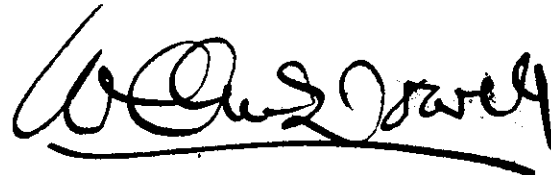
9th. What other organization should be invited?

10th. Should not this Congress have delivered before it a series of addresses by the greatest recognized leaders of American thought on the "Duty of the hour in the life of the individual", looking to the securing from a government based on liberty and equality before the law, "the greatest amount of human good?" These addresses to be published with the proceedings of the Congress.

11th. What other recommendations or suggestions can you give?

The thought in my mind in writing this letter is this: I want if possible to find a way to crystallize the patriotic sentiment of the world to Democratic Institutions in such a way that it will accomplish the largest amount of good for the greatest number of people. This letter copied will be sent to every member of the order of the "American Eagle", to the President General, and Vice President Generals, of the "Sons of the American Revolution", and to the President of each State Society. To the members of the late "Pan American" Congress, and to the President of each Republic in the world, to the press and to representative men everywhere in sympathy with Democratic institutions. Upon hearing from a sufficient number to justify action, a conference will be called, and so much of the correspondence as possible growing out of this invitation, will be printed and distributed before or with the invitations to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,



120 Liberty St.,

New York.