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Dear Sir:

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I am an old soldier that spent four years in the service - from July 4th 61 to July 9 65 I sometimes ask myself what was gained from the friendship and loyalty I endured in these four years - I read your various Bystander articles with great interest but again I ask myself the question what good comes from them Lawlessness increases and grows more defiant -

Our government is an absurdity a fraud and we had as well recognize the fact

When you undertake to divide government you destroy the same. You cannot serve two masters. If you divide the government of your family between you self and wife there will be a

quarrel before a week as to authority and the family will not be governed - Give the government of our schools between the Teacher and Director and the schools will run wild.

The idea of swearing a man to support two governments is absurd. One government is enough for any man to be loyal to.

If we had had statehood at the close of the war when the governments of eleven states were extinct, every state government would have been wiped out and a Government made that could protect the life, property &c of its citizens.

Because the people of the States raise wheat and those of Miss Cotton and those of Maine deal in lumber and those of Cal. in fruit does not call for different governments - Murder Arson Rape perjury forgery burglary &c &c should be punished the same in all the land and for the American people to tax themselves to maintain forty

from governments for this purpose or rather
 to complicate matters ^{as} ~~in~~ ^{extremely} ~~in~~
 absurd - Now to prove that these State governments
 are the source of lawlessness let me call
 your attention to this State. We have a State
 Law that first cousins cannot marry
 Now I can find in a village of God what
 it is two cases of first cousins leaving
 the State getting married and returning.
 One of these was the most prominent man
 in the township - I do not know how
 many thousand similar cases could
 be found in the State - State Law forbids
 open saloons on Sunday. In Lebanon they
 are all open - I cannot say how many other
 State laws are thus disregarded.

I would wipe out every State line
 and divide the country into Congressional
 districts and if a Senate was needed

into senatorial district and have both branches of congress and the president and all the officials possible down to the post master elected by popular vote. This plan would settle the Negro demand plea in the southern states and also the Negro problem that has been worrying our legislators for years.

I am getting old and do not expect to see my plan adopted - The politicians would fight it to the death - I believe however that if the matter could be fairly brought before the people it would carry before ten years - The people are getting tired of all this double headed government nonsense - States legislating to control the P.R.s and the Nation also and neither controlling them + c + c down to the World fair where after the Government invited all nations to come - was then put on exhibition in the presence of the Nations as the

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greatest force on earth

Please pardon my intrusion on your
time. My excuse is that I was full
of indignation and felt that I had
to do something - I am feeling
better now - I am not in the habit
of committing my thoughts to paper

Yours Respected
P. Thompson

CHAUTAQUA COUNTY, N.Y.