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# Russian Methods: Letter from Woodstock Jail

by Eugene V. Debs

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I am familiar with the oft-quoted maxim: “No man e’er felt the halter drawn with good opinion of the law.”

It has been said of every martyr, from the first time that a thumb-screw was ever applied by the inquisition. It was said of every victim broken upon the wheels, disjointed upon the rack, or burned at the stake. It has been a handy excuse for tyrants in all ages and is as current now as when the beasts of bigotry first lapped the innocent blood of their victims.

I know with what gusto corporations and their ermined sycophants and all their brood of degenerate creatures regard the imprisonment of the officers of the American Railway Union, and yet it is not law nor the administration of law that called forth our protest, but the abrogation of all law and the institution of iron-clad despotism. Innocent men, unstained by crime, we appealed to the courts and to the constitution for protection, for guaranteed rights. We appealed as American citizens to the Supreme Court of the nation. As well might we have appealed to the many man-eating tigers in an African jungle. Our destiny was imprisonment, and it tells the story of the final triumph of Russian methods of government in the United States of America.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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