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W. M. Boucher an Karl Marx in London. New York, Donnerstag, 8. Februar 1872

Lindenberg, Thomas (Bearbeitung)
Lura, Caroline (Bearbeitung)

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Handschrift: RGASPI f. 1 op. 5 d. 2756
Handschriftenbeschreibung:

Soweit aus der Fotokopie zu ersehen ist, besteht der Brief aus einem Bogen weißem Papier. Prägung: <Pferd>. Boucher hat alle vier Seiten vollständig beschrieben. Das Postskriptum ist kopfüber am oberen Rand der vierten Seite notiert. Schreibmaterial: schwarze Tinte.

Archivsignatur des Moskauer Marx-Engels-Instituts (IMĖ) auf allen beschriebenen Seiten mit Bleistift: „Rj 415a–d“.

Absender: W. M. Boucher
Schreibort: New York
Schreibdatum: 1872-02-08

Empfänger: Karl Marx
Empfangsort: London

| 14 Varick Place
New York Feb. 8/72

Karl Mark Esq.

My dear Sir –

I address you with feelings of homage for your position & relation to the great “Labor Question”. I am trying to do in this New-world somewhat as you have & are doing in the Old. Can we not become acquaintances? Are any of your writings in this country? Whom do you know & prize most here? Has that proposition: “The Nationalization of the land & the instruments of labor” really been passed upon affirmatively by the International Congress? Do you fully endorse it? I think the different Cooperative Associations should own the | tools & movable machinery at least.

Some have undertaken to say that by this proposition the Internationa [1] declare that all the industries must be carried on by the state, employing all the labor &(?) ensuring work, &c. &c. Was it you whom Castellar referred to in his great speech as the great man in the cause, if not, whom? Please accept some of my published circulars which I mail herewith[a]. I would like if you will that you introduce my name through these circulars, when you will have done with them, unless you care to keep them, to the Republican[b] or whatever is your advanced organ.

We have not yet any very advanced International [s] here. We have a good many demagogues & demagoguists. A good many wild erratic fellows, hairbrained & visionary, noisey & pretentious. But | few very profound nor even methodical thinkers. ’Tis a new country—we are yet a

superficial people. Egotism, Individualism (“The Sovereignty of the Individual”) is the chief characteristic phase of our life or degree of evolution at the presen [t] time. Disintegration rather than integration ~~*tangentical*~~ tangential rather [1] ~~*centripical*~~ centripetal. I am trying to impress upon them the significancy of Science as the only thing competent to furnish a true standard for agreement—scientific solution of the problems. That they must give up Sensationalism for Rationalism. That they must not only be fired with a desire and determination for a change but that they must also know how to affect it. In short that they must have the heart & head attuned together before they | may expect the harmony they are seeking—not only the heart attuned & the head attuned but after this these two harmonies attuned together—a complexity of attainment ’tis true difficult of realising for the poor work-people with their long & exhausting hours of labor, still it must come to this. Truth only dare prevail in the long run—Goodness & Truth!

I would very much like to receive a good long letter from you—You have so much more in which you can interest me than I can have to interest you. When my eye first caught your picture, I exclaimed—Good Lord! so much was I struck by it—its mighty massive power—I then looked for the name under it, & seeing Karl Mark, said to myself ah! no wonder!

Pardon my brevity—but believe me most fraternally
yours

W. M. Boucher

/ P.S. See some things of mine ~~*is*~~ in this weeks “W. & C. Weekly[e]”[d].

W.M.B. /

Erläuterungen

a) Zu dem Brief ist nur eine Beilage überliefert: To Mental Laborers. A New Project in a New Journal (RGASPI, Sign. 1 op. 5 d. 2756).

b) Vielleicht ist gemeint: The Republican (London)[c]?

c) The Republican

d) Siehe Woodhull & Claflin’s Weekly. Vol. 4, no. 14, February 17, 1872. S. 6 (Hamilton College Library).

e) Woodhull & Claflin’s Weekly

Kritischer Apparat

1) wohl ergänzt