

GREENFIELD, ILLINOIS, January 27, 1908.

TO THE CITIZENSHIP OF ILLINOIS:

The undersigned citizens of Illinois, constituting a committee having in charge the circulation of petitions throughout Illinois asking Governor Augustus E. Willson, of Kentucky, to pardon Caleb Powers, present the following address in behalf of this movement:

Caleb Powers, charged with being an accessory before the fact to the murder of William Goebel, has been tried four times; three of said trials were held before judges who were afterward removed from the bench by affidavits setting out specific bias and prejudice against him.

The juries in his first three trials were intensely partisan and the verdict of conviction in each of said trials was reversed by the highest court in Kentucky.

His recent trial and its result is fresh in the minds of the people. The last jury composed of eight Democrats and four Republicans, stood ten for acquittal. Notwithstanding this fact, together with the further condition that for more than an hundred years in Kentucky it has been the general practice to admit to bail a defendant when a jury cannot agree upon a verdict, Caleb Powers was denied bail and remanded again to jail. Immediately Caleb Powers pressed for immediate trial, setting out that his long imprisonment and poor health made it necessary for another hearing of his case in ten days. His plea was refused and he was ordered back to jail and trial set for next July.

For eight years this young man has lain in the jails of Kentucky. He has endured much. Patiently he has waited in the hope of final freedom by a jury of his peers. He has made a brave, manly fight, asking no quarter, seeking no favor other than that guaranteed by the law of the land.

His fight for freedom will live in history. Caleb Powers has no private fortune. The expense attached to these trials has been enormous, the last one costing more than ten thousand dollars on the part of Powers' friends and it is estimated that the cost on the part of the Commonwealth was almost forty thousand dollars. Caleb Powers has been four long years accumulating from the sale of his book and private subscriptions from nearly every state in the Union the amount required for his last trial. We are reliably informed that the recent trial has exhausted what funds had been gathered by public contribution for his defense. Therefore he is without means to stand the expense of another trial.

It was more than four years between the third and fourth trial of Caleb Powers; and while his case has been set for trial next summer, from the history of the continuances taken in these cases in the past, it is by no means certain that it will then be tried. In the meantime what of Powers? Eight years of jail confinement is a test of physical endurance which is almost beyond the comprehension of those of us who walk in freedom. True, this man has been a man of steel, but there are conditions under which even steel must give way. Tired, worn, moneyless, battling against tremendous odds for life, and honor, and all, like a wounded lion at bay, after eight long years of almost living death, we believe the hour has arrived when the governor of Kentucky should end all this by the pardon of this Dreyfus of American politics.

In order that the people may know where to find these petitions, we are this week mailing them to each and every postmaster in the state of Illinois, asking for the signatures of all those who desire to join in this movement, irrespective of party affiliations.

We most earnestly urge not only those who receive the petitions, but also some friend of Mr. Powers in every community in the state to make a thorough canvass of his vicinity in behalf of this long imprisoned man.

If for any reason the party who receives these petitions cannot circulate them, please do the committee the kindness to hand to some friend who will.

All who desire blank petitions can have them by addressing Mayor C. J. Doyle, Greenfield, Illinois, secretary of the Illinois Petition committee.

Should any postmaster fail to receive petitions by February 1, 1908, we ask that he, or some patron of his office, notify the secretary immediately and he will forward same at once.

All petitions must be signed and returned not later than February 10, next,—just ten days, and earlier if possible.

Return all petitions and address all communications to Mayor C. J. Doyle, Greenfield, Illinois.

E. D. SHURTLEFF,  
(Speaker of the House of Representatives)

LEN SMALL,  
(Former State Treasurer)

FRED J. KERN,  
(Mayor of Belleville and former Congressman)

W. L. MOUNTS,  
(Former State Senator)

W. SCOTT COWEN,  
(Chief Grain Inspector of Illinois)

O. F. BERRY,  
(State Senator)

EDMUND BEALL,  
(Mayor of Alton)

DAVID E. SHANAHAN,  
(Chairman Appropriations Com. House Representatives)

JAMES B. SMITH,  
(Former Adjutant General)

C. J. DOYLE,  
(Mayor of Greenfield)

Petition Committee of Illinois.