The Philosophy of the Uprising in the United States.

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In the history of the United States as in that of every other nation we see, at irregular periods, uprisings of the people for the purpose of redress of real or supposed grievances. The cause and effect of these insurrections form an interesting topic to the student of human nature, of history, of political economy.

A spirit of antagonism against the existing state of things seems as if by magic, to pass from one to the other of a clash and suddenly before any one is aware, the party is in a state of revolt, and a war of words if not of weapons begins. If we study closely the nature and history of these uprisings, we will see that is is the result of a slowly growing but perhaps unrecognized feeling of dissatisfaction.
tion, caused by some real wrong, or that it is the outgrowth of the poisonous seeds of discontent, im
planted in the mind of the participants by
notors and cunning malfeasors. These leaders
are impelled to this by hope of gain either of
notoriety or wealth, or from a pure love of mischief
and law-breaking.

It would seem that the second-named class of
revolt could surely bring nothing but harm to all
cconcerned, but the spirit of god may be found
even in this great sea of evil. Then there are
still others which seem to be political rather than
social or perhaps an admixture of the two. If they
do not begin as political uprisings they soon take
that shape.

One of the first that may be noticed was
the Whiskey Insurrection. This was the beginning
of a controversy which has ever since disturbed the United States, sometimes under one form, sometimes another. The outbreak was made in Western Pennsylvania, the result of a tax which three years before had been imposed upon all ardent spirits distilled in the United States. This tax was imposed for the purpose of increasing the revenue and from the first may have caused some slight dissatisfaction among a certain class; but there would probably have been no violence had it not been for the audacious and unpatriotic Genet who had a short time before come so near disturbing the peace and unsettling the government by appealing to the people for aid in behalf of France. He and his partisans incited the disaffected to take up arms and it soon assumed a political aspect, the anti-Federalists opposing and the Federalists favoring th
tax a condition which remained for many years. There seemed to be nothing gained by this unlawful outbreak, but it served to render the government more cautious and to instill in the minds of the people a respect for a government that could not be intimidated by rioters.

In 1854-5 there was another uprising of the people which demands attention, this is the American or Know-Nothing party. This was entirely political in its aspect. After the repeal of the Missouri Compromise there was a general dissolution of old parties and forming of new ones. The Whigs of the South who would not profess an anti-slavery creed, and were yet not willing to join the Democrats, formed a new alliance called the American party and by its associates in division the Know-Nothing party. Their chief ideas were an antagonism against the Church of Rome, and a
Resistance of foreign influence, as a means to which
and they would have foreigners live in this country
twenty-one years before they were allowed to become
citizens. They had a sweeping but short success, the
people realizing that there were greater questions for
them to discuss than naturalization laws and ecclesiastical creeds. Some strong men were at the head
of the party. Under the leadership of such men as
Humphrey Marshall, Henry Winter Davis and Horace
Maynard, they formed secret societies all over the coun-
try and tens of thousands joined them. But the
slavery question was upon the nation and would not
be silenced, it soon took the precedence of all others.
A new party was formed involving this with other
national questions; its principles were broad and its
foundation sure. It soon enrolled thousands in its
ranks, indeed its success was so overwhelming
from the beginning that they had a majority in the house and were ready to make a fight in the presidential campaign. They took a decided stand against slavery and made it the issue between the new Republican party and the old Democratic. While the American party had some strength to recommend it to favor, yet its foundation was not broad and deep enough, nor its support sufficiently well planned and executed to make it last. It seems to have had its origin in a feeling of unrest and homelessness rather than from any settled principles, they joining it who did not wish to identify themselves with those advocating either the anti-slavery or its slavery sentiment, and their design was to ignore this question altogether. Since this could not be done the party died as quickly as it sprang into life and it is now only a name.
Davis, perhaps the strongest man of the party, since the Republican party and was one of its strong men until his death.

About the year 1872 a movement was set on foot which at the time awaked the wildest enthusiasm and did much good. It was the Woman’s Temperance crusade. Mr. Lewis, who in his own family had seen so clearly the evils of intemperance, began a series of lectures concerning temperance work. While lecturing in Ohio he spoke on women’s temperance prayer meetings and their work. His words found a responsive chord in the hearts of his hearers and they resolved to carry out his plans. Then began that wonderful work of holding prayer meetings in dens of vice and in the gilded halls of iniquity, sometimes suffering defeat but often with victory crowning their efforts. A result of this hundreds of
Saloons were closed, the bad whisky and rich sparkling wine being emptied into the streets, not against the will, but with the hearty consent of the prohibitor. Thousands of men were reformed and many towns where saloons had been plentiful, were induced to vote no license.

The influence of these crusades still lives. It gave an impetus to reform work which will be enduring and out of it sprang that organization, the Woman Christian Temperance Union, which is as far reaching and as permanent in its work. Through this society the fight against iniquity has become organized, systematic and continuous, such effort must prevail.

On the sixteenth of July 1877 the people of the nation were startled by the news that the laborers on the Baltimore and Ohio railroads had struck and had caused a cessation of traffic on all their lines.
The cause of the movement was the fact that the managers of all the leading railways from the Atlantic slope to the Pacific had declared a reduction of wages. The labourers felt that they were being unjustly treated, and gathered enough force at Baltimore and Martinsburg West Virginia to stop the trains. The militia was called out by the Virginia Governor but was soon dispersed by the strikers. The President then sent a body of regulars under General French and the blockade was raised. A mutiny had occurred at Baltimore also which was not put down until several had been killed. The strike meantime had spread all the important roads east of the Mississippi. Perhaps the Reign of Terror was most complete at Pittsburg the strikers and rioters gathering there to the number of twenty thousand. They could not be dispersed until nearly one hundred lives had been lost and three
millions of property destroyed. About the same time there were riots in Chicago, San Francisco, Cincinnati and other cities of the west. Traffic was stopped and trade paralyzed and although the insurrection was quelled before the end of the month yet it was sometime before a feeling of confidence was restored. This out break, apparently 20 disastrous in its results, had served to shock the people what a power the laboring classes were if aroused, and what hidden feil was continually threatening the nation. It also tended to make the employers less arrogant, grinding and dictatorial. They were convinced that it was then they were dealing with, terrible and unquenchable when aroused and not blocks of wood or stone. They were also made to recognize the fact that the laborer had rights which they were bound to respect. Employers are continually forming a kind of league
it may be silently, to keep wages down and laborers must in self-defense form a league to keep wages up.

When they fail their rights approached upon a strike is their only expedient and having this as potent a force in their hands they often use it unwise and unlawfully. It may sometimes appear doubtful whether there is any good in this method of procedure, the laborers lose the wages of several days, often there is loss of life and property and in the end they may be compelled to return to work with no increase of pay or other perceptible benefit. But it often happens that, even if at the time there is nothing accomplished, the employer will, later on, grant the demand in whole or in part, to prevent another insurrection. Some things connected with the strike seem radically wrong. The deterring of those few laborers who feel they have no grievances and who
make to be employed, and the endeavoring to compel employers to hire a certain set of men and not others. But until there is a better way of righting wrongs and remedying grievances, this method seems likely to continue.

There is now an organization before the people demanding their attention, which for extent and rapidity of growth perhaps has no precedent excepting the American Party. I refer to the Farmers' Alliance under whatever name it may be found. The originators of the plan of organizing the farmers into an association had no idea of a political union. They, seeing the close times, the low prices and the hard condition of many of the farmers conceived the idea of some sort of a combination by means of which they might control the prices of farm products. Their plan was to establish certain lodges
in the different counties with one central lodge in each county. This central lodge was to control the selling of the produce so that no more would be thrown on the market at one time than was needed. By this means that is by never allowing the supply to be greater than the demand the markets would be regulated and the prices kept up. Frank H. McGrath was the leader of this movement. It made little stir of headway until the winter of 1879-80. Prices were very low, farms and homes heavily mortgaged with seemingly little hope of redeeming them. The question was again raised, secret societies were formed. Thousands joined the organization, having first received the promise that their political principles should in no way be interfered with. They should retain the right of voting with any party they chose. Their proposed scheme was to benefit the farmer by raising the price of what he had to sell.
by trying at wholesale and distributing cheaply to
the purchasers, the alliance men being the stock
holders; or if they themselves did not purchase stock
they would arrange with some dealer that members of
the alliance should have goods at a lower price than
other men.

But the party leaders, such as Polk, the President of
the National Alliance, Henry Simpson of present
congressional fame, and others were not satisfied with
this, so they decided to make it political in its character,
in accordance with this decision in the spring of 1870
meetings were held and a People's ticket as it was
called, was put in the field. They obtained a pledge
from the members of the alliance to support whatever
candidate they might bring forward. Judging from
their candidates their one desire was to have those in
office who would legislate for them and would aid
them to repudiate their just debts. To the surprise of all in some states it swept everything. In addition to the reason given above its political success was owing in a large degree to the fact that the Republicans in the South, having no hope of success joined themselves to this organization for the purpose of defeating the Democrats, and the Democrats in the North allied themselves with the party for a similar reason, that of defeating the Republicans.

The influence of this organization may become what reality when we consider the fact that Simpson, who is so ignorant he could not spell correctly Medicine Lodge, the name of the town where he resides, had the audacity to go to Illinois and try to control the vote in the senatorial contest. He was not successful perhaps, but the fact that he was recognized at all, shows the influence of the Alliance, and the
disgusting way in which political demagogues will
under any person or organization that they may
consider influential. In no other state was the
victory of this party so universal as in Kansas, in
the fall election of '72. In Nebraska two of the
three Congressmen belong to the People's party, but in
Kansas five out of seven are representatives of the
Alliance. Many reasons might be given for this. The
people of Kansas are naturally restless and "student
novis rebus". If there are any great struggles exciting
the people, or questions pending, Kansans are at the
front discussing and deciding the questions with
interest and for the most part with intelligence.
Their meetings, whether educational, political or relig-
ions are characterized by enthusiasm. Such masses
coming together as it would be almost impossible to
collect in the more sober Eastern States.
This activity and controversy began with the settlement of Kansas, when there were such fierce controv-
sersies and strife as to whether slavery or anti-slavery should gain the mastery.

When the prohibition question was raised, it was immediately taken up, discussed and decided by the
people of Kansas. It was among the first to grant the right of suffrage to women. It was a thing done in a
night, but while the morning dawned bright, like Jonah's
gourd, they died. After these might be mentioned
illustrative of the nature of the Kansans and the
soil on which the seeds of any speculation will fall,
but these seem sufficient. Again the Republicans had
a large majority in the State; the Democratic Party
had little hope of ever gaining anything, so on the
principle of the dog in the manger they said, "If
we cannot have the offices we will try to keep the
Republicans as in many cases joined themselves to the People's Party. Wherever this was done they were triumphant; but this was true in other states as well as in Kansas. The third reason and perhaps the strongest was the discontent of the farmers growing out of the failure of crops and the lowness of prices. People are always prone to blame some one for their misfortune and they laid it largely to Republican rule. Therefore anything that they thought would bring them relief and better their condition was eagerly grasped at. The Legislature of Kansas which formerly was overwhelmingly Republican now contains in its Lower House a large majority of Alliance men. Their original plan seems to be entirely lost sight of and it has become an intensely political organization, but notwithstanding the fact that it has gained such a hold in many states it seems impossible that it should have
any permanency. It is not national in its sentiments, it is selfish and narrow in its principles, looking to the elevation and improvement of one class only. The farmer what Blaine has said of the Know-Nothing party might with equal truth be said of this organization. Its creeds are narrow, its principles illiberal, and its methods of procedure boisterous and undignified.

Any party which does not have for its object the bettering of the masses cannot endure. The desire of this organization is solely to help the farmers by raising the price of their products, thereby compelling the laboring people to pay more for the articles they must have. And on two favorable seasons will show the farmer that it was not the fault of the Republican party that his farm was mortgaged, and the F.M.B.A. will probably die as sudden a death as did the Know-Nothing party.
Since I have mentioned briefly a few of the uprisings of the century I think it will be seen that my first statement in regard to the causes are correct; that either it is the result of some long continued dissatisfaction at the existing state of things or it is the result of the devices of some leaders. It may be both for a coal of fire may smoulder in the ashes a long time and a breath of air will make it burst into a flame. The faculty in the mind of man that is most often and most readily appealed to is his instinct of fear and of self-preservation. He in some way becomes persuaded that his life or his property is endangered, and immediately takes steps to preserve it. Other steps may seem false but self-preservation is his purpose. In the mass as individuals are honest in their sentiments and earnest in their efforts in studying the history of peoples and seeing
that uprisings have occurred throughout all the ages it would seem as if these things must either be. They are the safety valves for the mental feelings and passions of the masses. If it were not for them we would have that most terrible of all calamities, revolution, the eruption of a human volcano.