THESIS.

PHILOSOPHY OF REVOLUTION

REQUIRED FOR THE DEGREE OF B.L.

BY Chas. L. Smith.
Philosophy of Revolution

It is said that the universe, with all its heavenly bodies moving through infinite space with perfect regularity, was created from a chaotic nebula and that it has taken ages to perfect this earth of ours, all its beauty and its varied forms of life. Science further teaches that all creation is one continual development; that each century marks an epoch in the advancement towards perfection. Science teaches of man's growth, how his intellectual and moral force have developed from the lowly Hottentot to a Newton, Napoleon and Franklin. With the advancement of man has been that of nature. With the increased form of might he had been able to penetrate the most secluded recesses of
nature and discover her laws. Religion from its first two states of twenty-five centuries ago, when the people worshiped gods of their own conception, gods of interior and destruction, and who were moral to them by the plagues that devastated their country, has developed to the religion of today. Society and government which exists everywhere and which has faced through ages of formation. Society from the stage where there were no family ties, no home, no settled place, to the society of the nineteenth century. And in this onward march government has kept pace with society. It has progressed from that stage that "Might is right" to the Republic of the Weal which has for its cornerstone "That all men are created with equal rights."
In this progress of man he has risen above the common necessaries of life and stepped over into the arcanum of science. And it is in this onward movement that he has shown his greatest development. This progress in the scientific world has been of late date. In the fourteenth century Galileo founded astronomy, the oldest of the sciences to the world in its true light, and Harvey laid the foundation for medical science by the discovery of the circulation of the blood. Only one hundred years ago Newton told us why the apple falls and from this truth deduced the law of falling bodies, which is as essential to many of the sciences. Franklin and Moret were the first to utilize electricity which today is the foundation of
many of our scientific investigations. Many of the forces of nature have been discovered within the last thirty years and the limits to unknown forces and laws are being formulated into new sciences each year. The mystic laws of creation are giving way to the sciences; superstition and fear of positive knowledge. We are forced to the conclusion that progress and order are the laws of nature. Yet while the great current of civilization is onward, it is not without its banks, which make the stream the longer. Its eddies, whirlpools, and rapids which for an instant hinder the current backwards and the mind is challenged to explain the cause of these irregularities. Grecian art is the highest in form and product of all the oriental
civilizations was checked during the Peloponnesian and
Peloponnesian wars. Greece neglected her calling that
she might wage a despotic war against the Asiatic pow-
er, and in this struggle for mastery her republic
became despotic. Roman law formed by the greatest
jurists of the age could not avert disturbance of the
peace, revolution and at last rebellion. The English
monarchy formed after years of experiment, was over-
thrown by Cromwell. Not alone with the state but his-
story records her deeds of violence and anarchy against
the church and the state. Society has her St. Bartho-
rms and the year one thousand. The church
which was one time in perfect peace has since had
her trials. Miss, and Esther. That there are revolutions
in all elements of civilization there can be no doubt, 6
even nature foreb at times engage in war for machy
it is oppression in the form of oppression that creates ov
solution. The river never turns in its course unless it
meets some obstacle; eddies and whirlpools are not
found in sluggish streams but when the current is im-
pelled on with an irresistible force through a narrow
channel. If the molten lava were not imprisoned in
the depths of the earth by the great force above, it
would not wait until it had accumulated such terr-
bles and then break forth with that madness
that storms grow and ridicule defiance. The philosophy
that is true of nature I take to be true of the human
mind. If all oppression in the form of oppression war
removed there could be no rebellion form the mass of the people against tyranny. It is true, the mass of the people compelled it to rebel. The Roman government would never have had it not been for the oppression of Roman society. The English monarchy would never have fallen, had it not been for the oppression of his kings. If Charles the first had not declared the divine right of absolute rule, there would have been no civil war. The tyranny and obstinacy of the French kings gave birth to that terrible struggle the revolution of '73. Which in turn created the Republic. It was not the armies...
of France nor the ambition of Napoleon that led all Europe with fire and blood but despots and Republican form of government were its birth not to the peoples but to tyranny of kings and the oppression of the church. Our forefathers did not declare the colonies to be free and independent states of their own will, the incitement of the English Parliament and the alliance of George the third provoked them to their duty. It was not the abolitionists of the North that fought on the war abolished slavery forever from the shores of America, but the arrogance and brutal oppression of the slave master, which had no parallel in modern history, that drove the Northern States to arms. Even then they did not give the first shot but
waited for the South to give the challenge. The Church with all its power and influence was not assaulted from without but from within. The Roman Catholic church, not contented with her spiritual authority, under her leader Gregory the Great, contended for temporal power that she might found her doctrines upon the sceptic at the foot of the word. It was this enforcing of the edicts of the Church and the bulls of excommunication, with the tyranny of a Nero or a Caligula, that caused the uprising of protestants, who drove back the imperial armirs of Germany and Spain and for ever put the foot of the Papal inspiring. It is not on account of the barren fields nor pretences nor
The sufferings and wants of the present days has on 10
and discontent in the hearts of the Russian serfs, but
the dropth of the bar and the aristocracy has
forced the poor arts into rebellion. The insurrection
of the Jews is not due to the failure of profund
the ignorance of her countrymen but to the
cruelty of the English landlords. History demonstrates
the fact that men will endure all forms of un-
warble suffering and death of their own for well
for a cause, but will not tolerate tyranny. They
will go to the other extremes and destroy their own
love rather than lose peace. The Carthaginian gov-
ernment exhausted her treasury in fighting the
insult of Rome. Protestant German and the

the armies of church and state. She endured all the suffering of war, sacrificing her own home to the ravaging army of the king, rather than let her brand in chains of servitude by a foreign power, and this same spirit of freedom of thought and action was implanted deeply in the soul of the people. The army of the Revolution camped at Valley Forge without shoes and sufficient clothing and food, held by a hostile army, enduring all the pains of a terrible winter, toiled year after year without pay rather than recognize George the third as their king. Every revolution, every rebellion, has its prophets and fanatics. Thrice England had her thrones, France her Voltaire, America her Robert Ingersoll and her mother John Brown. These names
are not the natural growth of progress, but the offspring of rebellion, and we honor or condemn them as we accord or differ with their aims. But is this right or wrong they record the tyranny of poverty and their inevitable result: resentment. It is not less to be the revolutionist than to be the oppressor. The theme of history delight to ping the praises of those who have resisted tyranny. To say the world resounds with the praises of such persons as Leonardo, Winckelmann, Luther, Calas, Voltaire, Cromwell and Washington. May it not sound scraping the praises of Villain and Ingalls. It is not less to be an Ingalls than a Gregory the seventh. Thus we arrive at the conclusion that tyranny and slavery are the fruits of revolt.
Opposition is to be condemned whenever found, whether in party, government, or the church. It is not the sup-
port of truth but the foundation of wrong. He who would do the world the most good will work to give it the greatest liberty. Not that liberty which
knows no restraint, for that is the tyranny of a day;
but that liberty which respects the rights of others.
Far away the cobwebs of society, for they are the
moths of despotism. Fear from our statute books
the b 上 military right to rule and place in their own
equal rights to all by giving rich and poor the
same opportunities. Do this for government and then
will be but one government. Destroy the envy between
church and churl, church and state, and there will be
but our church and but our society. But accomplishing this world create a revolution which will have its time, and we must bid the day. When these extortions are destroyed, the stream of civilization will not be a corkscrew with its corkscrews against which to dash the ship of state. Her current will not be filled with whirlpools to draw down the church, nor with cataracts for poetry to be drawn over and dashed to atoms. But the stream of progress will be so broad and deep and straight. I do not think that damn deplores the civilization of its day but wishing, hoping and believing that it will be grander in the future. For with all the revolutions of the past and present the progress of civilization
has been and ever will be onward and onward, although at times the contrary seems to be true. It is the banks of the Mississippi and follow it from the source to its mouth. At times the current is east, then north, then west, but at the same time the general direction has been south. It has turned aside that it might roll on. So with the human mind from its birth to the present day it has ever continued to move onward and to broaden. True, the progress of civilization has been arrested and lengthened by the wars and revolutions, but only held back for an instant for there is no obstruction but that must yield to progress. Thus the work of
the present is to destroy this element of oppression, which can not and shall not triumph. For all that oppression and tyranny ever has done, is to shed innocent blood in a more than useless struggle, it never can and never shall triumph, or all the lessons of history go for naught. To destroy this element of oppression is the work of our age, and the people who accomplish this result will have achieved the greatest work of any age.

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