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FREELAND, DECEMBER 23, 1895.

Philadelphia This Time—Where Next?

Philadelphia, the City of Homes, surprised the country last week with its disorder and mobs. But it does seem that human nature is the same the world over. It was once believed that the people of Pennsylvania's great metropolis were above indulging in scenes which are common during strikes in New York, Chicago and other centres of population, less Americanized than Philadelphia is reputed to be. That city has been written up and accorded by critics as the one great city on this continent where respect for the law is the uppermost thought of its people and where disorders and riots could not be bred. Nevertheless, inside of a few hours after a street railway strike had been declared, that great city of peace and brotherly love was in the possession of a mob, an orderly one in some respects since no property was destroyed but that of the corporation which is antagonizing the people, still a mob against which the civic authorities were as helpless as children, and which dispersed, one might say, of its own accord when it tired of blocking the streets.

The uprising against corporate greed in a staid old town like Philadelphia should have its effect, not alone upon those directly interested, but especially upon that large class of citizens throughout the country who walk along the middle path of life, who are neither over-rich nor fearful of poverty's pangs, that body of our population which views the insolence of crafty monopolists and the threats of rebellious workers without a thought of what it all may eventually lead to. This is the class of Americans who, by their negligence, are morally responsible for the never-ceasing conflict between capital and labor, which breaks out in unexpected spots and at unexpected times, for they hold the balance of power in this country, and if they would avail themselves of the opportunities they possess to place both extremes in a position where each would receive justice and nothing more, the war of the classes would soon be over.

It cannot be possible that men who are considered good American citizens will continue to look placidly upon the strife that is daily enacted before them without feeling that there are wrongs which should be righted, that one portion of the populace should not be ground to have the other roll in wealth, that in this country, above all others, where men are equal and have no peers, that a remedy cannot be found which will rid America of the cancer that is eating away the very foundations of even this great government.

There is a lesson in the little outburst of anarchy in Philadelphia, and those who know anything of the rise and fall of empires will find food for thought in such occurrences.

All Would Rally to the Flag.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record.
 The Irish National Alliance offers to equip and send into the field 100,000 Irishmen if it becomes necessary to declare war against England. There is no question that this offer would be made good. As a matter of fact, nearly twice that number of the exiles of Erin would muster in at the first call. For nothing would give the average Irishman more pleasure than to take up arms against the ancient enemy of his native land. And the pleasure would be greatly increased by the knowledge that in doing so he would be defending a country which is dearer to him than all others; which sheltered him and his when oppression and poverty drove them across the sea, and made it possible for them to enjoy the blessings of freedom and equal rights denied them at home.

Irish valor brightens the pages of our country's history. Montgomery, Sullivan, Jasper, Moylan, Meagher, Kearney and a host of other brave celts will long be remembered as men whose swords flashed in the thickest of the battle for American freedom. That this patriotism is as strong now as it was in the old days is made manifest by the eagerness with which Irish-Americans proffer their services to this country. The dream of Ireland free but intensifies their love for free America in which they see the realization of their fondest desires.

But if war should come, it is not the men of Irish blood alone who will respond eagerly to the trumpet blast. Just as eager, just as prompt will be the answer from men of all nations, and the German, the Welshman, the Swede, the Dane and the Pole will vie with the men of American blood in defending the honor of their common country. Then all will be Americans, no matter in what land they first saw the light and they will be ready to defend their adopted country with their lives.

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