

# HIGHER GROUND

HINTS TOWARD SETTLING

## THE LABOR TROUBLES

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62

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BY

AUGUSTUS JACOBSON



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CHICAGO

A. C. McCLURG AND COMPANY

1888

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The truth is that we are arrived at one of those periods in the progress of society when the constitution naturally undergoes a change, just as it did two centuries ago. It was impossible then for the king to keep down the higher part of the middle classes; it is impossible now to keep down the middle and lower parts of them. All that resistance to these natural changes can effect is to derange their operation, and make them act violently and mischievously, instead of healthfully, or at least harmlessly. The old state of things is gone past recall, and all the efforts of all the Tories cannot save it; but they may by their folly, as they did in France, get us a wild democracy or a military despotism in the room of it, instead of letting it change quietly into what is merely a new modification of the old state. One would think that people who talk against change were literally as well as metaphorically blind, and really did not see that everything in themselves and around them is changing every hour by the necessary laws of its being.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and so convulsive to society, as the strain to keep things fixed, when all the world is, by the very law of its creation, in eternal progress; and the cause of all the evils of the world may be traced to that natural but most deadly error of human indolence and corruption—that our business is to preserve and not to improve.—DR. THOMAS ARNOLD, *Headmaster of Rugby, pending the Reform agitation in England, April, 1831.*