I Am the People, the Mob

By

I am the people—the mob—the crowd—the mass.
Do you know that all the great work of the world is done through me?
I am the workingman, the inventor, the maker of the world’s food and clothes.
I am the audience that witnesses history. The Napoleons come from me and the Lincolns. They die.
And then I send forth more Napoleons and Lincolns.
I am the seed ground. I am a prairie that will stand for much plowing. Terrible storms pass over me.
I forget. The best of me is sucked out and wasted. I forget. Everything but Death comes to me
and makes me work and give up what I have. And I forget.
Sometimes I growl, shake myself and spatter a few red drops for history to remember. Then—I
forget.
When I, the People, learn to remember, when I, the People, use the lessons of yesterday and no
longer forget who robbed me last year, who played me for a fool—then there will be no
speaker in all the world say the name: “The People,” with any fleck of a sneer in his voice or
any far-off smile of derision.
The mob—the crowd—the mass—will arrive then.