

## Society in America.

6-10-'91.

Time has just completed the first chapter in the history of our Republic, 1889 dates our hundred years since the epoch of our federal union. It was in July, 1776, when the greatest statesmen of colonial times met to consider the policy of declaring themselves free from their mother country. We can see the anxious throng as they crowded around the hall to hear the result of the final vote which meant, to the hopeful, the birth of a nation, to the despondent and heart sick few who feared it would never pass, continued slavery. At two o'clock the messengers rushed out through the open door exclaiming "It is passed" and the old bell swung to and fro proclaiming liberty to the American people.

This was the beginning of our nation's history. That its growth has been marvelous no one will doubt.



But does the preserving elements in our society today exceed the destructive ones? Are we to teach the old nations of Europe lessons in civil government or are we destined to fall in with the Anarchism, Socialism and Communism and thus perish?

It is certainly growing plainer every day that we are falling in with customs and conditions of the old world, the very things which the United States were created to avoid.

In many respects our customs and institutions resemble and are essentially the same as those of Europe. It will not be very long until our country will have just as many things that will have to be blown up as there are in Russia and Austria, and since the Yankee is by nature of a more nervous disposition and has twice the dynamite in him, we shall have on our hands riots that will far surpass those of Russia or Austria.

Proof that we are following the



nation of Europe lies in the fact that we have but to visit our large cities to see poverty and misery in their most morbid form, vice driving decency and prosperity farther and farther from us. The old saying "that the rich are growing richer and the poor, poorer" verifies itself in these places. In New York for instance a few minutes ride will take you from the shining and magnificent streets teeming with wealth to those of dirt and wretchedness too full of moral filth to be called the abode of man. In Boston a few steps will take you from the beauty and elegance of a "Beacon Street" to the dark hideous "North end" and "South cove" swarming with dirty children, vice and misery. These places are but types among thousands of others which literally swarm with wretched human beings cared for by nobody and caring for no one. It was the Huns and Vandals who sweeping down from their massed cities and



forests of the north destroyed the civilization of Rome, but we have among us a class more fierce, more lawless and certainly as numerous as any which ever followed Aleric against the battlements of Rome.

There are other evidences outside of the city which prove only too plainly, that there are defects in American institutions, that American civilization is not what it should be. The day laborer, the miner, the mechanic, slave harder and work more hours per day than any human ought to do, and for what? Barely enough to satisfy hunger and clothe them; their reward is the poorest of clothing and the coarsest of food. Even the Kansas farmer, here on the beautiful fertile prairies of ours, finds it almost impossible even though he work fifteen hours per day together with the labor and economy of both wife and children to get a bare subsistence.

The state legislature thinks it has solved the problem when it



comes forward with the law saying "our children must be educated." But in many cases it's the weak hands of the children that, laboring in the factory and workshop, keep the family from being either scattered to the four ends of the earth or dependant on the county for support. Unless the condition of society is changed the law which declares that children must attend so many months of the year will have to provide not only free schools and free texts but free dinners and free clothing.

But this is not all. There are annually countless thousands of beer-drinking dynamiting foreigners poured upon our shores. "France can scarce endure her horde of communists. Germany is fearful lest her socialists will prove her ruin. Russia is trembling amid the bursting bombs of the nihilist." But what of America? She must endure them all: the communist, the



socialist and the nihilist who find not only cheap and comfort at the passage but worst of all an open harbor inviting to America.

Finally, when we think of the dangers attending foreign immigration, of the influence of the saloon in politics, of the existence of poligamy, of the millions of dollars spent annually toward foreign mission when we have within our borders a class of unenlightened people (Indians) more dangerous to us by far than all the heathen of Asia, Africa and Mexico combined, of the conflict between labor and capital, and to sum it all up in one little sentence the universal lack of moral stamina, can we boast of the condition of American society?

To what source can we look for a remedy. This is an age of science, but it cannot solve the problem since it does not deal



with sociality. Will the moralist help us? He was never known to help redeem society. Can we look to the press? No, it caters to every sentiment. How about Legislation? It cannot help us for they say "There was never a moral precept found in the statutes. Where then is our remedy? It is to be found introduced in our little sentiment uttered years ago "Righteousness exalteth a nation".

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