

Commencement,
on Thesis

"Immigration as a
Peril,"

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Outline

1) "The causes of immigration".

(a) Oppression at home.

(b) Easy Transportation.

(c) Advantages here.

(2) General character of emigrants.

(a) Poor in the extreme.

(b) Many ^{with} bad characters & corrupted morals.

(c) Connected with foreign secret societies.

(d) Few have trades or will work.

(3) Attaining citizenship and suffrage.

(a) Some states as soon as a promise that they will become citizens.

(b) No attention is paid to the moral or general character of the subject.

(c) Diff. nations give us variegated corruptions.

(4) Direct influence of emigrants.

(a) Gather in cities in large crowds where they can be used by the unscrupulous.

(b) Gather in crowds and march to Washington.

(c) On the whole a mob of discontented men ready to do most any thing that their mean natures prompt them to do.

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what is the most noticeable feature of our time? It is the steady influx of emigrants into our country and this will probably continue as long as we continue to offer such inducements as we have been, in the form of cheap land, - ample protection under our government, and prospective business without requiring scarcely anything for our privileges of citizenship. No one is surprised in the least when a poor unfortunate man leaves his native country and seeks peace under the protection of the governments of the west, where pleasant homes may be had upon farms which the gov. simply gives away. And yet this is not the subject, we do not say that it is not better for the emigrant, but, is it better for the west, that such a flood of people of such doubtful characters should pour in upon our land? Of course it is better for the oppressed vagabonds, criminals, and paupers who can be gathered from all corners of the earth.

to come here where their crimes are unknown and where, and where a new record of sin can be made.

But are we not injured by their presence. Each year has seen a larger number than the preceding one.

The number of arrivals per annum has increased at a fearful rate.

There are reasons for such an increase.

In the year 1825 the passage across the Atlantic cost \$100; now, owing to the improvement in navigation and lively competition, one can cross for \$70. The reduction is correspondingly as great inland. And more than this - now one can work his way across, so arriving here as many do without property, and no means of support. And as many of them are of the lowest class, if they had decided to become better citizens, being acquainted with the dis. vices, there is the greatest possible temptation to resort to such means again, in order to get a living. And in this way we get a large proportion of the criminals that infest

our land, which should never be. Our land ought not to be the dumping grounds of the earth, a place where, as at present, all can become citizens with equal privileges regardless of previous condition. To be an American citizen is an honour that should not be conferred upon a man until he has proven, or at least given some proof of his sincerity in promising what is necessary for the qualification. Above we said from the emigrants we get a large number of our criminals. We wish to dwell some upon that. It is not mere hearsay, but was gotten from the different statistics, which showed that a certain kind of crime was the result of pauperism and that both of these evils are recruited by immigration. During the ten years from 1872 to 1882 we rec'd. 3,544,438 emigrants, of these 25% were German 14% British 14.6 British Americans 12% Irish 3.8 Swedes all others 20%.

Now, in considering immigration much can be told of the way in which they

by the number of them which have a trade in which to engage. We do not mean to say that this can be considered as correct, but merely that it will give a substantial idea of what we can expect. A man engaged in a good occupation is not a man to head riots. And according to statistics the number of emigrants that rank as professional men is less than 1%, and of skilled laborers some rank higher than 17%. which should be conclusive proof that these men are not in a condition to earn a living at any ordinary trade, as but a small % have a trade at which to work.

Again - to single men and women the author of this piece is inclined to put less trust than in those surrounded by families. A very common inference too - who does not expect a married man to be more reliable than an unmarried one? And hence the farmer is less liable to engage in vice or disorder. Applying this to our statistics we have another point

against immigration, for about 40% are unmarried and 21% are under 15 yrs. of age. It will be well too to note the different nationalities which are depicted in different things. It is shown that the Germans are above the average in skill at professional labor, and represented by the least number of laborers and servants. British rank ahead of Germans as no. of professional men, and next in no. of servants.

British Americans come next after Germans for men with vocations. Now if we combine the British and B. Americans they much exceed the Irish in no. Yet the former do not as a rule create sensations, but are easily reconciled in their new surroundings! But it is different with the turbulent Irish, who use every effort to retain social and secret organizations formed in their native heath. Although the Irish form $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total no. of emigrants, they are accredited with $\frac{1}{2}$ of the poor and untrained laborers. Again the $\frac{1}{3}$ of skilled laborers among the Irish

is less than $\frac{1}{4}$. This lack of discipline is of course followed by irregularity of employment and small pay.

The Irish have the largest representation in the cities, which is detrimental to all concerned. Dense population is always the scene of crime and the unfortunate Irish, who by their unfortunate circumstances are driven into such places, have greatly increased the criminal records of our country.

They of necessity experience difficulties in a new country and may be a strange language.

People who live in such a disordered state can not but be influenced themselves as well as their children.

So it is not to be wondered at that our public are filled with people of foreign birth. Some parents who in Europe would have given their children a trade, find it impossible here.

You may say this is a minor affair, and yet it has its influence upon the whole, therefore the habit of industry is well called a safeguard from

It must be evident too to most people that this enormous emigration has had its effects upon the political affairs of our country. Whatever their characters they have not had the training that the natives have. This influence is quickly felt too on account of universal suffrage, extreme short naturalization period. The no. of foreign born do not in any state equal the native population, but in many instances bears a large population to the latter.

But the population will be still greater if we take into consideration the foreign parentage, which in some places gives the foreign element an over whelming majority of the votes.

Again the proportion of natives do not represent the peoples political strength. For the foreigners are always represented by an abnormal no. of male adults!

As an example in Mass. the proportion of the native born above 20 yrs. of age is 54% while the emigrants are as high as 84% which shows that the

no. of voters among the foreigners can not be calculated from the same bases as the natives.

Not until recent years has this increase in foreign vote created any particular sensation. We have quietly received this addition to our population with out any especial effort to prepare them for their new duties and privileges.

Not only have we neglected to make strict suffrage, but we have made it more easy to admit foreigners.

They are admitted to all public offices except President and Vice President of the U. S. In one sense this is the best plan. It has prevented the formation of classes, has offered inducements to good emigrants when we needed them.

It is simply carrying out the political liberty idea to perfection, by securing every advantage that a pure democracy could offer. Until recent years the

plan was a good one, but of late there are unmistakable signs that show that our emigrants are not being properly assimilated, and

that much evil is being done: by a constant addition to our voting population of persons not fitted to exercise the right of suffrage.

The naturalization act now in force is the one passed in 1802. Some of the important requirements are as follows; 1st preliminary declaration of three years, 2nd Proof of one years residence in the U. S. 3rd Proof of good conduct etc.

It is evident that this act only intended admitting persons of good character, who intended to exercise the rights and privileges of the American citizen.

But alas! the test provided in regard to good character etc, are simply argued by the courts. A person who has been here a reasonable length of time, and can bring out or find persons to say that he is of good character is admitted to citizenship.

In many cases the clerk conducted the examination, while the court-

Again - The right to exercise universal suffrage does not depend upon naturalization, but is determined by state leg.

In 14 states a foreigner is allowed to vote at a state election, as soon as he has declared his intentions of becoming a citizen, although he has not applied for the naturalization papers, and may never do so, often the applicant can neither read or write, what can the constitution mean to him? many are the bad results from the admission of such wrong material to such great privileges.

A very great one is voting. The Irish would have us deal very leniently with Ireland.

Politicians yield to these whins hence the corruption in winning these votes, and they are usually won for equally corrupt purposes. The Germans usually control the vote upon the liquor question.

and often in opposition to the native sentiment. Just think of it our politicians being controlled by prejudices of newly arrived immigrants. How can such proceedings work good to any country. It always with extreme difficulty that the people who understand the working of the gov. are enabled to preserve it untaunted. Then how can strangers to our progress dictate for our prosperity. They do not, look at such things of discontented men as accumulated in Chicago last summer and are now in Washington D. C. - the plainest sign that we have of corruption and discontentment, were they natives, no; a very large majority are men of foreign birth, many of whom have not become citizens. And yet the crowd howling up and down the streets carrying "red flags" and crying "down with the gov."

and "give us bread". Such are
becoming the men we would
forbid becoming voters. Are we
getting within the borders of a
decent country? They were
raised under sucharchy, and
not in a state to-reel - Its masters
themselves and their circumstances,
- and do not know how to use
the privileges given them.

And until they are capable
of doing so it would be in favor
of keeping them out.

John Stingley