Evils of Foreign Immigration

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The recent movement, in the United States, called the American movement, has begun a work which long ago should have claimed the attention of our statesmen and moralists—the work of receiving the flood of immigration, which is being poured upon us.

Fifty years of eventful history have been quietly picking up the proofs of our national pride, till now, they come down upon us like an avalanche.

During these fifty years, our people have been carelessly indifferent to all dangers arising from immigration, even rash, in their inducements to foreigners, to come to America; and now, not until our country begins to assume evil conditions similar to all those to be found in Europe, do they say, enough.

Such indifference can be attributed only to one of the greatest evils of the American people—political apathy, the belief, that we are a chosen people and that the Almighty stands pledged to our
prosperity, probably not one in a hundred of our population, has ever questioned, the security of the future. Such optimism is as senseless, as pessimism is foolish. The one is as foolish as the other is wicked.

Worse than indifference, it has been the custom, of political parties, to offer inducements to foreigners for their votes, to make the growth of said vote as easy and as extensive as possible. But the coming successful party must take a firm stand, in favor of Americans to govern America.

Thoughtful men see, peril on our national horizon. That the moral fiber of the nation has been greatly enfeebled and degraded, by the drinking upon our choice at the social chalice of Emancipation during a century, causes alarm among the most thoughtful and capable men.

It is seen, that the ridiculous asylum story threatens the republic already, with pride of the greatest character and that, to con-
time, in the application of that
theory, would be to follow a road
that leads to the same destruction
of our much vaunted edifice of
political liberty.

The humblest workman, with
an honest purpose and a loyal
heart, following the guide of a
natural impulse, and the most
learned philosopher, following the
light of the coldest reason, unite
together, at the same place and
perfectly agree, in the same con-
clusion — that the presence among
us, of a large body of Socialists,
Anarchists, Nationalists, Liberals and other
social beings, from the old world,
is a danger, which threatens the de-
struction of our national edifice,
by the erosion of its moral founda-
tions.

It is high time, to call a halt,
upon our national foolishness, clieckly-
ed, in invading into our home and
taking to our tender political bosom
the immoral vices and ignorant
chage, of all the earth. Better, infi-
mitely better, for America would it
be, to reverse the practice and
apply the declaration, that foreign 
offenders shall go.

The immediate and direct effect of the immigration, if those foreigners, are alone sufficient to warrant in restricting their coming; but, when we study the question and see the inevitable and more terrible results, that must follow from the presence of such an element in our population, and which will have a tendency to increase and grow more terrible, as time proceeds, and the number of immigrants increases, we should not hide it.

There are, of course, many worthy immigrants, from every country in Europe. Some countries furnish a class more vicious and immoral than others; and, to make a careful study of those from each nation separately, it will be found, that the immigrants from each country are not producers of all the evils to be considered and those of some nations will be almost entirely free from any of the faults with which immigration, in general, is charged. But it will be found, that some
of each nation contribute to some of the evils and, in making such a study, we can well take them in one general class—immigrants. The immediate results we experience, from manifestations of their character and disposition. In their characterization of poverty, ignorance, heathenism, drunkenness, and libertinism, do we see the terrible influence they are diffusing throughout our land.

The U.S. Consul, at Zurich,mithe
that scarcely an immigrant ship lands, upon our shores, that does not contain, dozens of paupers, paid to come here, mixed with jail-birds, fleeing from justice, and readily permitted to escape. A large part have been either failures, at home or unfortunate and unlucky men, so called, who can never prosper anywhere. No small part are adventurers, seeking fortunes political and otherwise, in a country, where they have good reason to believe the most worthless may rise to position.
From this latter class, it is so short a step to the more vicious class, that the effect may well be called immediate.

All immigrants, who come to America, we can safely say, are cursed with poverty. Poverty enforces the lands from which they came, and, on that account, do they fly from their old homes, to our land, where they think prosperity and success awaits them.

Formerly, there was no objection to the poverty-stricken immigrant, because, if he possessed the ability to work and a moderate amount of skill, the unoccupied lands and the undeveloped resources of the country made his chance, of lifting himself above the miseries of his condition, into a worthy citizen. But now, that the unoccupied land is nearly all exhausted and the great natural resources are being rapidly developed, this chance no longer remains open to those, who come here without capital, and they become a pest to the nation.
This part of our immigration, is crowding, into our cities and, unable to make a living, fills up our charitable and penal institutions. In 1880, the foreign born were only thirteen per cent of the entire population, but they furnished forty three per cent of the inmates of our work houses and houses of correction and, it must be borne in mind, that a very large proportion of the native born inmates, were of foreign parentage.

Ignorance is the veritable companion of poverty; and the number of illiterate immigrants, is almost as shockingly great, as the number of those who come without means. The influence of ignorance can not be shown only through other demonstrations to which ignorance leads. In the evils which develop in America, ignorance is a cornerstone, if not, the whole foundation.

It goes without saying, that there is a dead level of ignorance and vice, in every republic and, when it is touched by the average citizen, free institutions perish; for intelligence
and virtue are as essential to the life of a republic as they are to the life of a man.

Immigration is doing much to bring the average citizen to that line; for the per centage of illiteracy, among the foreign born, is thirty per cent greater than among the native born whites.

The heathenism of the American immigrants, embraces a consideration of both, their lack of religion and their immorality. Both combining to make them as truly heathen as the barbarian.

The moral and religious training of the average immigrant has been meager or false, his ideas of life are low. Many are without any belief, whatever. That which very many of them have is but the dictation of an ecclesiastical authority, whom they unreasonably fear and obey. A religion descendant, with faith in ideas of a god and state. Not a few hold to the ideas of Mormonism, though it is not generally noticed, or else, wanting in any belief, are easily
and soon recruited, into the Mormon ranks. Many more are materialists and skeptics. It is certain, that very few adherents to sound Christian doctrines, are to be found, among this fleeing element, of European people. Moreover, even less religion than they possess, is manifested by the foreigners; in America. No man is held upright simply by the strength of his own voice; his branches interlock with those of other men and thus society is formed. Few men appreciate the extent to which they are indebted, to their surroundings, for the strength with which they resist, or do, or suffer. All this the immigrant leaves behind him. He is isolated in a strange land, perhaps doubtly so, by reason of a strange speech and before he is rooted, he is met with the blast of temptation and he falls to the lowest depths of immorality. Across the sea, they suffer many restraints, which are here removed; and here where old associations are broken and
and reputations are left behind they
sink to a lower moral level.

Our population, of foreign extrac-
tion, is really conscious, in our
criminal records. In 1880, this
element furnished seventy-five per-
cent of the crime. The breakdown
and roughs of our cities, are most
of them American born, of foreign
parentage. Of the six hundred and
eighty discharged convicts, who ap-
piled to the Prison Association of
New York, for aid, during the year
1882, 442 were born in the U.S.
against 238 foreign born, while only
144 reported native parentage.

These statistics, everywhere, show,
that it is the foreign element, of
our population, that produces our
criminals.

Moreover, immigration not only
furnishes the greater portion of our
criminals, but is also seriously af-
fected the morale of the native
population. Most foreigners bring
with them, certain continental ideas
of the Sabbath, and the result is sadly
manifest in all our cities, where it is
being transformed from a holyday into
Immigration it is which has fed fat the liquor-power. The liquor traffic is chiefly carried on by foreigners and they too are the ones who consume by far the largest part of it.

In 1880 of the traders and dealers in liquors and wines (It is supposed that this means wholesale dealers) sixty three percent were foreign born and of the owners and malters seventy five percent, while a large proportion of the remainder were of foreign parentage. Of saloon keepers about sixty percent were born foreign born while many of the remaining forty percent were of foreign extraction. Nearly all of the different classes of immigrants are liquor drinking people; but what proportion of each nation are not at hand to indicate. The question of the evil which intemperance wields needs no discussion.

The lowest form of immorality, the practice of libertinism is indulged in to a shocking extent.
by our foreign people. In our cities, where such licentiousness is practiced, must, and where the subject can only be investigated, the pictures of this lowest form of immorality, presented by the foreigners, are shockingly terrible. In a report, of such an investigation, it is stated: *That most of the facts have had to be torn down or wholly omitted. No respectable printer would print and no decent family would admit, even the brief statement, of the horrors and inhumanities discovered, in one brief visitation from house to house.*

Such are the characteristics of American immigrants, the evils which they bring with them to our shores. Such the foundation upon which they build, their greatest engines of destruction. With such materials, can we doubt the possibility of their success? They are here, here in numbers, with all these evils, and must be watched, to prevent the working of greater evils.
The subject of land overcrowding, has already been mentioned, under a discussion of the subject of poverty of immigrants; but, as one of the growing evils, it demands much more attention; for it is a condition which fosters and develops all the other evils to be feared.

Besides the necessity of crowding into cities, which the occupying of all farming lands compels, the city has a peculiar attraction for the immigrant. Our fifty principal cities, contain 39.3 per cent of our entire population and 45.8 per cent of the Irish. Our ten largest cities contain only 9 per cent of the entire population, but 23 per cent of the foreign. While a little less than one-third of the population of the U.S. is foreign, by birth or parentage, 62 per cent of the population of Cincinnati are foreign, 64 per cent of Cleveland, 63 per cent of Boston, 88 per cent of New York, and 91 per cent of Chicago.

The first great evil, arising from the crowding of our cities, is the effect upon the laboring classes,
In America, wages have been higher, than are paid in Europe, and foreigners are glad to get work to do, at a very slight advance over the European price; but at a very great reduction over the American price. Competition enters in very extensively and works directly in lowering bodies. Wages are reduced below a living price. The number of idle men is increased, by foreigners unable to get work and disappointed at not meeting with the success they had anticipated; they begin to develop their European ideas of socialism. Immigration is the mother of socialism and, with immigration increasing, the number of idle foreigners will increase as will the number of American workmen, unable to meet the competition for work, out of employment. These will swell the ranks of the Socialists, to give them the power, to threaten the existence of your social and civil regulations. There are yet two influences largely due to foreigners that are growing and will be felt unless checked by restrain
ing immigration. The reference is
made to Mormonism and Catholicism.
There are many who are disposed to
attribute any fear of Roman Catholicism
in the U.S. to bigotry or childlike
but we know, that a comparison
reveals the fact, that the fundamen-
tal principles of our government
and the Catholic Church, are at-

We can not be too sure, that
there is little danger to be appre-
teended from the Catholics, on ac-
count of their weakness of numbers.
They are bold and their wealth in
America is immense. Examination
shows, that the growth of the Catholic
Church corresponds closely, with that
of foreign immigration, but is some-
what more rapid. It is a fact,
of the Catholics, that they will
yet have the U.S. under the domin-
ation of the Pope and we can
not afford, to have the experimen-

Mormonism is not simply a
church, but a state; an imperium
in imperio, ruled by a man
who is prophet, priest, king and
Pope, all in one. There is no doubt, that it is becoming less and less a religious power and more and more a political power. The eyes of the Mormons are now dazzled with the vision of an earthly empire. They have gone back to the old Jewish idea, of a temporal kingdom and they are endeavoring to set up such a kingdom, in the valleys of Utah and Dakota; and Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada. With this in view, the church sends out from 200 to 400 missionaries a year, most of whom, later in Europe. Of any of these converts are too poor to reach America, they are assisted by loans from the Perpetual Emigration Fund. With these facts in view, we can not look upon Mormonism as a harmless institution and must charge, to immigration, much of its recent growth.

Foreigners, in America, have an alarming power over the political affairs of our country. Without any restrictions, they are granted the
privileges of the ballot, a power to overthrow all that does not harmonize with their views, no matter what their views may be or what their motives. Immigration lends strongly to our cities, and gives them their political complexion and there is no more curious instance to our civilization than our sable-ridden cities. As we have already seen, it is immigration which has put the liquor power and there is a liquor vote. Immigration furnishes us with Mormonism and Catholicism and then is a Mormon and a Catholic vote. Immigration has given us our socialism and a socialist vote.

Many Americans are not Americans. It is as unfortunate, as it is natural, that foreigners, in this country, should cherish their own language and peculiar customs and carry their nationality, as a distinct factor into our politics. Immigration has created the "German vote" and the "Irish vote," for which politicians bid and which have already been
decisive of state elections and might, easily determine national
A mass of men, but little acquainted with our institutions, who will
act in concert and who will be controlled largely, by their ap-
petites and prejudices constitute a
very paradise for demagogues.
This is a tendency toward central-
ized power. The capitalist and
corporation find many ways to con-
trol standards of votes. A vote in
a city may be decided by a "free"
man, a capitalist or a corporation which
may change the policy of the whole
city or of the Nation. It matters
not, by what name we call the
man, who wields this centralized
power, just so far as it is absolute,
and irresponsible, it is dangerous.
If immigration continues, we have but a
short time to wait until our present large
cities are London; when class antipathies
are lessened; when socialist organizations
are in every city; when the corruption of
city governments is gone apart; when
the price of bread is doubled, with starvation
in the home; with idle men gathered,
sullen and dejected, in the saloons;