

THE QUESTION OF IMMIGRATION.

Some Interesting Speculations with Regard to the Future of the American People.

The Extent to Which the Countries of Europe Contribute to Our Population.

A Complicated Problem.

What will the American citizen of the future, say fifty years hence, be like? Will the Anglo-Saxon type continue to predominate? Will the Celt still hold his own, or will the German come to the front and assert himself? Moreover, will not the Latin and Slavonic races have something to say about the future American man? These are questions which are puzzling the anthropologists, says a writer in *The Brooklyn Eagle*, and even causing some concern to thoughtful statesmen, who view, not without anxiety, the efforts of this republic to absorb yearly and turn into good citizens nearly three-quarters of a million persons of foreign origin, some of whom have a very imperfect acquaintance with free institutions.

An appeal to the statistics of the past will not wholly answer these questions, for the currents of immigration are changing and new streams are flowing toward us in recent years. Still, to obtain a starting point for our inquiry and a basis upon which to speculate, it is necessary to refer to these statistics very briefly. At the present time the population of this republic may be set down at upward of 56,000,000. Of these about 7,500,000 are colored and 8,500,000 foreign-born, leaving 40,000,000 persons of the white races born upon the soil. When the first census was taken, in 1790, there were 3,230,000 white persons in the United States. This population was largely homogeneous, being mainly of British origin, although Germans were numerous in some of the states. There was also a considerable Irish population, most of the latter, however, being of Scotch Presbyterian stock. The Celtic Irish had not at that period undertaken to relieve the native of the trouble of governing their cities. This original native population, if left to itself, would now, by natural increase, have reached an aggregate of 25,000,000 souls. It has, of course, intermarried with immigrants largely, but, nevertheless, this figure may be taken to represent the strength of the old stock among our present native-born white population of 40,000,000. The total number of immigrants who have arrived in the United States since 1790 exceeds 13,000,000, of whom more than half have arrived in the past twenty years. Up to 1870 Ireland led all other nations in sending immigrants to the United States, having sent in the fifty years between 1820 to 1870 no less than 2,700,000 persons. England and Wales in the same period contributed 530,000 and Scotland 85,000, but there were others unclassified which sailed from British ports, most of whom were probably Germans and Scandinavians. Of immigrants who were known to have come from Germany 2,270,000 arrived during this fifty years, besides 184,000 from Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, and 245,000 from France. Between 1870 and 1880 the number of immigrants from Germany was greater than from Ireland, the result being that at the census taken in that year there were found to be 1,966,742 persons of German birth in the country and 1,854,571 of Irish birth. At the same census there were found to be 917,598 natives of Great Britain and 440,262 natives of the Scandinavian countries, the latter having shown a largely-increased emigration during the decade.

There has been nothing in the history of emigration so remarkable as the overflow of population from Ireland between 1845 and 1870, its strength and volume going far to justify the boasts frequently made as to the prolific character of the Irish race. But this quality no longer distinguishes the Irish race in its native country, for in 1882 the births in Ireland, with a population of 5,000,000, were actually fewer by nearly 4,000 than in Scotland, with a population of 3,780,000, and the excess of births over deaths, which in Scotland was 33,000, was in Ireland about 34,000. Therefore, when Ireland, in 1882, sent 69,461 emigrants to this country, she parted with more than double her natural increase of population. The population of Ireland does not now exceed 5,000,000, and its birth rate is low. With a natural increase of less than 35,000 annually, it is evident that the number of emigrants it can hereafter send to the United States will be but small in comparison with the vast stream from Germany, or even the smaller yet steady flow from England and Scotland, or the Scandinavian countries. The following statement of the natural increase of these countries and of their emigrants to the United States in 1881 presents the whole problem at a glance and will save many words of explanation:

	Natural Increase.	Immigrants United States.
Germany	522,909	245,721
Scandinavian countries	81,000	92,514
Great Britain	44,318	94,131
Ireland	33,700	20,908
Total	681,927	553,274

The remarkable result is here presented that nearly one-half of the natural increase of the countries from which our popula-

tion has been most largely drawn annually comes to America. The outflow from the British islands, is steady and constant, and, deducting from it a portion of the fifty thousand persons who annually returns to the British islands, may be said to fairly represent the annual gain to the United States of 140,000 immigrants of the best quality and speaking the English language. The Scandinavian countries are now sending practically the whole of their annual increase to this country. They form the very best class of immigrants, and assimilate readily with the natives. The German immigration fluctuates considerably, sometimes falling to a comparatively low figure one year, and the next rising very high. In 1880, for instance, it fell to 84,638, and the very next year rose to 248,323. In 1882 the number was 229,696. There are no better immigrants than the Germans, but they assimilate more slowly with the natives than either the British, Irish, or Scandinavians. Fed as their numbers constantly are by fresh immigrations, they must for a long time to come form a separate element of the population, and this in spite of the fact that the Germans of the second generation all speak the English language and generally prefer it to their mother tongue.

The British man is, as every one knows, a compound of the old Saxon race (now best represented by the Dutch), the Scandinavians or Northmen, and the Celts. In the west and southwest of England the latter predominate, while in the north of England and the lowlands of Scotland the former prevails. If, therefore, within the small area of the British islands a perfectly homogeneous type has not been produced, it is idle to expect it in a country so vast as this, a country in which the various races might aggregate themselves into separate communities as large as some European nations. This has been done on a small scale by the Mormons, but it might be done on a great scale by any of the great emigrating races.

Judging from the present rate of immigration it is probable that the census of 1900 will show the United States then to contain at least 4,500,000 natives of Germany, 2,200,000 natives of Ireland, 2,000,000 natives of Great Britain, and 1,600,000 Scandinavians. There will then be something over twice as many persons of the second generation, children of the natives of the respective countries, and four or five times as many who may be regarded as belonging to the races which they respectively represent. The persons of German birth or origin will be as numerous as was the population of Prussia prior to the war with Austria in 1866, and beyond all comparison more wealthy. Yet no one anticipates that any danger to the nation can arise from this source. As for the Briton, however numerous he may become, he disappears immediately among the mass of the people and is heard of no more.

If, therefore, it were certain that the immigration of the future would be precisely of the same composition as the immigration of the past there would be no need of apprehension as to the race or character of the future American man. But there are other countries, scarcely recognized heretofore as sources of immigration, which are now sending considerable numbers to this country. At the census of 1880 there were but 50,000 natives of Austria-Hungary in the United States, but in the following year that empire sent us 20,000 immigrants, and a steadily-increasing immigration may be looked for from that quarter. The present excess of births over deaths in Austria-Hungary is about 220,000, with a very high death rate. But there have been years when the surplus approached 400,000, and should this state of things return an annual immigration of 100,000 from that quarter would not be at all surprising. These immigrants would be of mixed race—Germans, Slavs, Magyars—the Slavs being more numerous in Austria proper, and the Magyars in Hungary. Italy is another country which is just beginning to be another important source of immigration. In 1880 there were but 44,000 natives of Italy in this country, but in 1882 the number of Italian immigrants was 300,000. Italy has an annual surplus of 200,000 persons, and emigration has been as high as 135,000 in one year. Hitherto emigration has been mainly directed to France, Austria, and South America, but the number coming this way is steadily increasing, and no one can say that the day is distant when we shall have to dispose annually of 100,000 or more Italians, most of them of a very low class.

Russia has an annual excess of births over deaths of 800,000, but the number of immigrants to the United States from that quarter has as yet been very small. There were but 35,000 natives of Russia in the country in 1880, the most of them being residents of Alaska. The bulk of the remainder were Mennonites of German blood. The Russian Slav so far has not emigrated to any extent; but should he once begin to come it will probably be on a large scale. It would be idle to speculate as to what the future immigration to us from Russia may be, but from the character of the people it may be assumed that when the current of emigration once begins to flow toward us in earnest it will be strong and deep. It may even

in time reach the proportions of the immigration from Germany. Should these old world countries once begin to put forward their full strength as sources of immigration the American man may well begin to tremble for his identity and to wonder what he will be like half a century hence. Of one thing we may be well assured, that among the political problems of the future this question of immigration is destined to occupy a very prominent place.

A Successful Preacher.

In the town of Monmouth Sunday, says *The Lewiston Journal*, was seen the unusual spectacle of a church crowded from the farthest corners to vestibule doors, men craning their necks to get a peek inside from the outer platform, and other men sitting on the settees outside the church, listening to the sonorous voice of a preacher. This preacher was Rev. J. R. Day, D. D., of New York, a Monmouth boy, who had climbed to the top of the ministry. He has one of the finest New York churches, and his salary is \$10,000 a year. He spends all his summer vacations in Monmouth and always preaches once at the Center during the season. On that Sunday the other church at the Center is closed, and people from miles around throng to the Methodist chapel. Dr. Day is a pulpit orator of the Talmage style. He is not so eccentric as the Brooklyn divine, but reminds one of him. He is a son of Ann, physically, has a magnificent head, and a fine face, and pitches his voice on a high key. His off-hand hearty manner is much liked, and he holds the spell-bound attention of his audience, frequent responses of "Amen" being heard. Dr. Day is an enthusiastic farmer. Managing his Monmouth acres is his favorite recreation. He owns one of the best places in town, and delights in summer exercises with the pitchfork and milking his valuable cows.

Japanese Art.

The trustees of the British museum have issued a descriptive and historical catalogue of Japanese and Chinese paintings in the national collection. The extensive series of such works of art was formed by Mr. William Anderson, and purchased in 1882. They were brought together in the course of a residence of over six years in Japan, for the purpose of illustrating an ancient and remarkable phase of art in its historical and technical developments. The collection, although comprising representative specimens of all the various schools, must be regarded, as Mr. Anderson tells us, only as a nucleus, to which it is hoped large additions will hereafter be made. The written documents of the eighth and ninth centuries, which comprise the oldest known records of the Japanese, make no allusion to the existence of any phase of pictorial art before the fifth century A. D., although very ancient dates are assigned to some other branches of art. The first planter known was a Chinese immigrant of royal descent named Naurin; but it is probable that Japanese art education made little progress until the introduction of Buddhism in the middle of the sixth century, when the early native workers, guided by Korean instructors, first essayed their hands upon Buddhist pictures. The author of this learned catalogue thinks that the connection between India and Japan in Buddhist art is beyond doubt, but there is equal certainty that it was established entirely through an intermediation of China and Korea; "for although Indian priests have from time to time settled in Japan, one as early as A. D. 737, there is no evidence of the arrival of any artist from that country, nor are there any specimens of Indian art preserved in Japan that are likely to have made an impression upon the professors of such gems as the Horiuchi mural painting and the sculptures of the Two Deva Kings at Kotokuji."—*London News*.

Everything Fair in War.

Jonas H—, of Washington, Ind., toward the close of the late war was body-servant to a quartermaster, and after the close, and when the quartermaster had been mustered out, as Jonas tells the story, he requested Smith, as a last service before parting, to take a large box on a drag to the freight depot and ship it, asking Smith at the same time "if he could read and write." Jonas answered that he could not, started off with the box, and on the way to the station removed the shipping-tag which bore the name of the quartermaster and that of the place the box was to be shipped, and substituted his own name and address, and by that means obtained a box of new army blankets the quartermaster intended to capture or steal from Uncle Sam.

Jonas, who is fairly educated, said in extension of this commercial transaction: "Mr. Quartermaster 'captured' the blankets from the government, and I captured them from him. Everything is fair in war."—*Detroit Free Press*.

Young America.

Little boy (at table)—"Pa, give me some bread."
Father—"My son, you must remember that older folks have the preference."
Little boy—"I don't want any preference; I want a biscuit."

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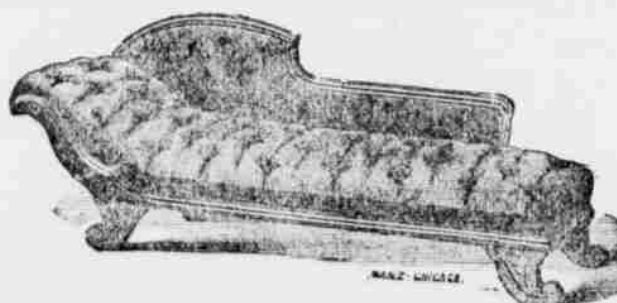
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