hisfe but too likely to grow out of these agitations. The Know Nothings claim that States have but a modified control over the volunteers and other militia of the several States. To the State, therefore, and the Governors of the States, it belongs to remedy the present existing evil. But Congress, also, has a bearing upon this reference to this subject, by providing, as far as possible, against the admission into the country of those dangerous foreigners, into men who come here from foreign work-houses and prisons by the compulsory agency of the Governments to which they belong. If an adequate security against the future transportation of this class of men into the country cannot be provided by negotiation, it should be done by legislation. Congress has the power to make such regulations as will effectually close the door against the admission of this class of immigrants, and it will be recreant to one of its highest duties if it should fail to exercise it. Not only is the corruption of the public morals to be apprehended from the admission of these men, but the public peace and security are likewise endangered by it. Private property, health, life, morals, religion, everything dear to communities and individuals, is endangered by receiving this class of men. This evil is not a new one, it is true; but it is frightfully on the increase. A number of years ago, during the period, I am informed, General Samuel Smith was Mayor of the city of Baltimore, a ship load of Hessian convicts, two hundred and sixty in number, were brought into port with manacles and fetters still remaining on their hands and feet. General Smith, having discovered the character of the passengers, detained the vessel at Fort McHenry until he could communicate with the Secretary of State, at Washington, on the subject, which he did. By the letter, however, he was informed that there was no remedy—that we must bear our present lot, and that so the citizens of Baltimore were obliged to look on and receive hundred and sixty convicts in their midst, and turned loose upon society. So desperate, too, was the character of these men, according to my information, that they had to be brought over in chains, and were actually landed with their handcuffs and fetters upon them.

Lately (so lately that they have probably not arrived) the Sardinian Government, as I have already mentioned, in a national vessel, (the Dogonna, man-of-war,) thirty or forty convicts, men of desperate fortunes and lives; old convicts, who will here become schoolmasters of vice and learned professors of crime. In most time, Mr. President, in view of such facts as these, that the most vigorous measures should be adopted to prevent the country from becoming a mere penal colony of the Governments of Europe! Having our institutions, and jealous of the unexampled progress of the nation in wealth, power, and greatness, yet afraid to assail us openly, does not their conduct, in this respect, almost look as if it were the result of a determination on their part to corrupt the fountains of our prosperity by sapping the morals of our people. For a far less offense than that which is continually being committed against us by the Governments of continental Europe, war would be justifiable. But to this extremity we need not proceed. There are other remedies, much less costly, and more effectual, if not to punish the offending Governments, at least to prevent the recurrence of the offense; and to these we must have recourse if we would stay the flood of pauperism and crime flowing in upon us from the Old World.

And who, Mr. President, permit me to ask, will resist the attempt, or be offended at its success? Will the honest foreigner—who comes, *bona fide*, to escape oppression at home and enjoy liberty here—object because we refuse to permit the asylum which he has sought as a home for himself and his children to become the refuge of thieves, and murderers, or the thriftless inmates of European workhouses? Our adversaries, and the attorneys of our children, will be his advantage, and the advantage of his children, from generation to generation. Him, therefore, we cannot offend by pursuing the course which the national safety demands. But Mr. President, will complain! It is easy to answer—Those whom we shall offend—the unfeeling, but calculating dupes, I trust, don't suffer by population, the wretched and miserable inmates of their alms-houses and hospitals, reduced to poverty and want, and afflicted by disease in consequence of the burdens and hardships occasioned by unjust wars, and for contempt of their royal pride. They will complain, (but not openly,) because, instead of fifty shillings paid per head for transporting paupers into this country, treble that sum will be required to maintain them at home. Another class may also object to the measure which we may take for our own security—I mean the convicts and felons, who will be left to expatiate their sorrows in the solitude of native prisoners, instead of pursuing a career of prosperous villany here, because their rulers will not deem so much their house at home, though willing to do it here.

I now beg leave, briefly, to call attention to the state of pauperism and crime in the United States, as disclosed by the census, prison discipline societies, and other similar associations. And first, I refer to pauperism as it existed in 1850.

The foreign population of the United States, in 1850, as compared to the native, was nearly as one to ten, there being 21,227,374 natives, and 2,244,602 foreigners. The whole number of paupers supported, wholly or partially, in the last mentioned year, was 134,792; and of such paupers, 96,538 were of foreign birth, leaving but 38,424 natives.

In 1850 the number of paupers supported in the poor-houses of Massachusetts, and who received partial support out of doors, was 15,777; and of such number 5,530 were native, and 9,247 foreigners. In New York the whole number was 59,828; and of this 19,278 were natives, and 40,550 foreigners. In Pennsylvania the whole number was 11,551; and of this 3,258 were native, and 8,523 foreigners. In Rhode Island, the whole number was 2,560; and of this 1,115 were native, and 1,445 foreigners.

I shall pursue these statistics of pauperism no further, being compelled to turn to a number of other shocking statistics in the inquiry. And I shall first call attention to the number of criminals who were convicted by the courts of several States in 1850. In Connecticut the whole number of convictions was 850; and of these 545 were natives, and 305 foreigners. In Illinois, the whole number convicted was 318; and of these 137 were natives, and 181 foreigners. In Maine the whole number convicted was 744; and of these 204 were natives, and 540 foreigners. In Massachusetts the whole number was 7,

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