

ment; such countries as Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, France and Germany, which furnished the frame work of this Republic, have fallen to the rear of the great procession; while from Austro-Hungary, Poland, Russia, and Italy, the last decade has witnessed a peaceful invasion of an army more than twice as large as the armed hordes of Goths and Vandals that poured down upon Southern Europe and overwhelmed Rome. While these millions of aliens have come to us, in the main, with peaceful intent, and with the purpose of becoming citizens of this commonwealth, still their presence among us in such vast and constantly increasing numbers, is becoming more and more a possible source of danger to us, to our institutions, and to our civilization. These heterogeneous hosts, streaming in upon our shores from foreign lands, are possessed of languages, modes of thought, habits of life, and social customs, differing largely from those of the great mass of Anglo-Americans. Even amidst the most favorable surroundings, individuals do not readily divest themselves of ideas, sentiments, habits, and customs, ingrained upon them from their earliest years, and which have become a part of their very life and being. Hence there is always among all peoples a strong tendency to cling with the utmost tenacity, to their distinctive national peculiarities and characteristics. Formerly such tendencies displayed by our immigrant population, were largely neutralized by the great majority of Anglo-Americans, and the work of absorption and assimilation went quietly and steadily on; but with the constantly increasing influx of foreigners, this work has become a burden, so that it is now a matter of serious consideration as to whether we have not reached the limit of our powers of assimilation, and whether if the tide of immigration continues to increase in volume, the tendency will not rather be for the Foreigner to absorb the American than for the American to assimilate the Foreigner. In former years, while our great manufacturing centres were yet rural districts, and agriculture was the chief

occupation, those who sought an asylum on America's shores were eager to adopt our customs and become loyal citizens. But with the birth of a New York and a Chicago came the tendency for this portion of our population to congregate in cities, and to mass itself in certain districts in these great business centres, and there maintain its own language, customs, methods of life, religion or irreligion, so that it virtually constitutes a foreign community on American soil, and hence becomes almost impervious to all Americanizing influences.

Thus New York with its 75,000 Italians has its "Little Italy" which represents some of the worst features of Italian society in the mother country. San Francisco with its 50,000 celestials, has its "China Town," which presents an exact likeness to the "Flowery Kingdom." Chicago and Cleveland with their hordes of Poles and Hungarians, have their "Bohemian Quarters," where thousands of immigrants of these nationalities live in the half civilized condition in which they have been reared. In almost all our great cities the combined foreign element equals, and in many instances largely surpasses in numbers, the native American portion of our population. Hence our cities are assuming more and more a foreign type, so that it is becoming almost impossible to find a distinctively American city in this great Commonwealth. Realizing and appreciating the advantages which their vast numbers afford them, these foreigners are becoming arrogant in their strength and they demand, in an insolent manner, that our institutions and laws be modified to suit their foreign ideas and customs. Their influence is exerted against all principles and laws for the elevation of society. They even threaten to overthrow the great corner-stone of our civilization, the American Sabbath, and substitute in its stead, that relic of barbarism, the European Sabbath with its open saloons, beer gardens and theatres; Sunday picnics, baseball games, brutal prize fights, and everything else that a demoralized,