

them. This community is a bit of Bohemia or Germany or Italy transferred to this side of the Atlantic and set down in city or country. It remains an undigested mass in the body politic; and it remains undigested because unmasticated, for mastication is a process of *separation*. It appears, therefore, that the larger the immigration, and the greater the consequent need of assimilation, the slower and more imperfect does that process become.

Moreover, there has been since the war not only a great increase in immigration but also a marked deterioration in its quality. This deterioration has been twofold. The increase of immigration during the past twenty years has come chiefly from inferior races; and, again, the better races have sent their poorer representatives.

For obvious reasons the people of Great Britain are more easily assimilated than the races of continental Europe. Twenty years ago, nearly one half of all our immigration came from Great Britain and Ireland; now only about a third. Our most objectionable immigration comes from Russia, Russian Poland, Hungary, and Italy. Taking the annual average immigration for the seven years from 1874 to 1881 as compared with that of the like period from 1882 to 1889, we find that immigration from Great Britain and Ireland increased only 67.8 per cent. and that from Germany only 76.7, while that from Poland increased 166 per cent., that from Italy 286, that from Russia 297, and that from Hungary 476.4.

The reduction of fares has affected both the quantity and quality of immigration. The building of continental railways and the cheapening of the transatlantic passage have made this Land of Promise possible to much larger numbers and to much poorer classes; and what is worse, societies have been formed, and several European governments have granted aid, to transport to the United States the insane, the paupers, the feeble-minded, and the ex-convicts of their respective countries. The governments of Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, and Italy are all guilty of this international outrage. Hundreds of paupers have been found in our poor-houses whose clothing bore the mark of the almshouse in Great Britain from which they had been shipped. Testimony before the Ford Committee on Immigration of the Fiftieth Congress showed that in fifteen months, from April 3, 1882, to July 8, 1883, there arrived at the port of Boston alone 49,122 of these assisted immigrants.

The census of 1890 shows that the foreign element, *i.e.*, foreign by birth or parentage, tho constituting only one third of the population, furnishes nearly three fifths of all the paupers supported in almshouses. In other words, the tendency to pauperism in the United States is nearly three times as strong in the foreign element as in the native.

Again, the 20,000,000 of our population, foreign by birth or parentage, furnishes for our penal institutions of all kinds, except