

away and lost. I hope on another occasion to bring my views on this subject before the House, and to show that we are no enemies to our foreign population as such, that we would take away none of the rights that they now enjoy as naturalized citizens; that all legislation on the subject should have reference solely to those who shall hereafter come to the country; and that there is a well-founded belief that these measures would tend, in the end, to the permanent well-being of the immigrant himself. I have spoken, in the commencement of these remarks, of two distinguished foreigners, and I could add a long list of men who have shed honor on this the land of their adoption. No man will more freely accord to them the meed of praise than myself. I would that all our immigrant population brought with them, or should afterwards acquire, such sterling principles, and such knowledge of the laws and institutions of the country of which they become citizens.

Pardon, sir, this long digression. On this occasion, and on the great question before the House, I belong to no party but that of the country. I rejoice that no party lines are drawn, and all feel themselves free to act as they may deem the best interests of the country require. With many others, I believe that the proposed notice will bring a settlement, and all the attendant train of peace. Sincerely do I believe so, if the tone of the notice shall be conciliatory, and such as becomes a great people, conscious of their power, and of their position among the leading nations of the earth. I wish to see all causes for future ruptures ended, that we may hear no more, if possible, of wars and rumors of wars. But if after we have done all that we can to secure a peaceable termination of pending difficulties, war shall come, then the nation will be united, I trust, as one man, feeling that we are right in the approbation of our own consciences; right in the intelligent judgment of mankind; and right, if war is ever right, in the eye of him who regulates the destinies of nations, and controls the affairs of the individual man.