

Tacitus long since described Rome as the *colluvies gentium*—the sink of nations—and his history, and that of Gibbon, justify the designation. Our chief cities are fast becoming the sinks and slums of the Old World depravities, added to those which have their source in our own soil. Either they flow in a broad, ceaseless, putrid stream—a menace to our institutions, a curse to society, a disturbing and corrupting element in the body politic. “A little less than a third of the entire population of the United States is foreign by birth or parentage, and yet 62 per cent. of the population of Cincinnati are foreign, 63 per cent. of Boston, 83 per cent. of Cleveland, 88 per cent. of New York, and 91 per cent. of Chicago!”* This fact alone is enough to startle us out of our fancied security and excite the gravest apprehension for the future. The danger is not so much in their numerical strength as in their social ideas and political affinities and hostility to religion and the church and the old order of things. They come here largely, not for liberty, but for license. They are as a class ignorant, degraded, hostile and dangerous.

Romanism has its centers of organization and strength in our cities, where there is such a vast foreign element, largely in sympathy with it, and offering favorable conditions for propagandism. Here it concentrates its strength, plants its institutions, organizes its forces, sways political influence, fills its coffers from the city treasury, † and openly fights and secretly intrigues for the overthrow of our public schools and for ultimate ascendancy. Beyond a question, Romanism is a menace to our free schools, to a free Bible, and to an enlightened, patriotic, catholic Christianity. And yet Romanism is rampant in New York and other cities of our land. More than half of the teachers in our public schools are Roman Catholics. Our municipal offices are largely in their hands. The Romish Church is growing rich on the favoritism of politicians and legislators. Its influence is courted obsequiously by office-seekers.

Already the large foreign element concentrated in our chief cities is making its power and pernicious influence tremendously felt in our social condition, in our politics, in municipal, state, and national legislation, and in public sentiment, which is stronger than law. Many of

* “Our Country,” page 129.

† The Compendium of the Tenth Census gives the number of persons foreign-born in each of the fifty principal cities, but does not give the native-born population of foreign parentage. We are enabled to compute it, however, by knowing that the total number of foreigners and their children of the first generation is, according to the census, 2.24 times larger than the total number of foreign-born.”—*Ibid.*

‡ *The Independent* gives a chapter of what it calls “Sectarian appropriations,” which have been made during the current year in the city of New York. The total amount appropriated during the year to the charitable and benevolent institutions of the city is \$1,142,232.61. The non-sectarian, private and public, institutions receive \$510,092.38. The surprising thing is that sectarian institutions receive a larger sum than the non-sectarian, to wit, \$632,130.23. The Hebrew Benevolent Society receives \$60,000 annually. Several institutions of the Episcopal church receive altogether \$31,814.63. *The Roman Catholic Church receives for its institutions the large sum of \$540,325.00.*