

patible with even the present average length of life, that infanticide is openly resorted to in order to keep numbers in check; and as female children are more frequently the victims than males, the consequent deficiency of women leads to the commission of crimes fortunately unfamiliar to Caucasian ears.

For ages no emigration worth mentioning took place from China, owing to reasons too numerous and irrelevant to specify here, though the same crowded condition has there existed from the time when it first became known to Western nations. Contented with their low standard of life, and seemingly deprived of every motive which would lead to any improvement in their condition, the only places ever visited by the Chinese were the neighbouring Pacific Islands, while commerce with foreign nations was almost unknown and utterly abominated. But when gold was discovered, first in California and afterwards in Australia, a new career was opened up for the Celestials, and very soon they began to avail themselves of the means of egress thus furnished. A writer in *Blackwood's Magazine* for July 1852, says:

“The disasters resulting to China from its late war with us—the increase of taxes—the injury to commerce and employment in certain Provinces of the Empire—and the general unsettling of large masses of the people, as well as the partial infusion of European ideas in the maritime districts—have greatly broken up the apathy and stay-at-home spirit of the Celestials. No sooner did news of the gold-discoveries reach Canton than the mania seized upon them also; and the remarkable spectacle was witnessed of a nation which had kept itself apart from the rest of mankind since the deluge, coming forward to compete with its fellow-races for the spoils of the earth.”

Chinese emigration to America, therefore, dates back but little more than twenty years, and yet this short space of time has been long enough, as we shall presently see, to work a social revolution on the Pacific coast; what the next twenty years, with an influx increasing in geometrical progression, will accomplish, it would be now hazardous to predict. The migratory movement was at first, and for many years but slight in extent, and the emigrants were entirely of the male sex—men who came over for gold and returned to China with their earnings. Of late years, however, whole families have been in the habit of migrating *en bloc* for the purpose of settling, and in San Francisco alone there are now over 30,000 Chinese, of whom about one sixth are females. The