

material development but have also been the theatre where has been seen the free intermingling of millions of persons, diverse in language, in social customs, in religion, in educational advancement, in political knowledge and in financial standing, under democratic institutions and under conditions favoring admixture and absorption, due to compulsory education and to transportation facilities, to a degree never existing anywhere before in the world.

What has been the outcome of the many streams of influence debouching into one common sea of humanity we have to-day clearly set before us and for a few moments it may be of interest and incidentally of profit to us, if we can from a standpoint of detachment, examine, necessarily it may be for some of us, either with spectacles, monocles, or field glasses, the movements of individuals, groups, classes, and communities sailing in barks from the cockle shell to the great ocean liner over the surface of this sea, influenced by storms, seasonal, and paroxysmal, winds occasional and local, or steady and permanent and currents which arise either from some local shore influence or some stream deep, strong, world-encircling and organic.

With the facts and results of to-day before us it is almost impossible to comprehend the attitude of the inhabitants of the newly formed states of the Union of a century or so ago, when, as Prof. Brooks states "In 1812, at the Hartford convention one of the ablest men thought we had enough inhabitants of our own" and Jefferson was pretty nearly hysterical in his fears of immigration." From the high-water mark of 1832 onward, especially to 1857 approaching the year of the Civil War, the era of steadily increasing immigration continued, due to the building of railroads and opening up, of the illimitable western prairies from Ohio to the Missouri. That this enormous influx should have accentuated fears, already strong, of the domination of foreign ideas and beliefs is seen in the rise of the "No-nothing" movement in the fifties, following the extraordinary exodus from Ireland especially during the famine years of '46 and '47 and the political ferments of the same period both in that country, Germany and other continental countries.

We have seen what the population was in 1860, how immigration expanded after the war, and seemed to have reached its climax in the decade from 1880 to 1890, when it approximated 4,500,000, only to have been exceeded during the present decade, which has seen 4,800,000 in six years arrive in the United States and 1,007,000 in Canada in the same period. It may be well for our purpose to complete these figures by giving the nationalities of the immigrants entering the United States from 1850 to 1900: