

the second above fifty per cent ; while *in one day* of 1887 there were nearly two thirds as many as each year averaged from 1783 to 1847 !

The sixtieth chapter of Isaiah, though it has an undoubted dispensational meaning, and is primarily applicable to the chosen nation of the Hebrews, could scarcely have been more appropriate to our own country if it had been written for our encouragement and admonition. It is the great home missionary chapter. It challenges us to use the light we have from God to irradiate the darkness around us, and reflect and transmit the rays which selfishness would absorb. How true it is of this land that the nations are coming to our shores as doves in flocks to their windows ; the sons of strangers build our walls and palaces. The question is, Shall all these heterogeneous elements be assimilated into homogeneity ; shall we get national unity out of this diversity ; shall the fir-tree, pine-tree, and box-tree together be wrought into the woodwork of the sanctuary ?

These foreigners come with " strange gods," with notions, prejudices, habits, customs, foreign to our own and at war with them. They are prolific, and increase with very great rapidity. What sort of an influence are they to exert over coming days ? Mr. Ellis, in his remarkable book on " The Criminal," has again brought to our notice the amazing ruin to society wrought by one vicious progenitor. The " Jukes family," so called, proved a brood of vipers. The ancestor, born between 1720 and 1740, had a numerous progeny more or less illegitimate. Two sons married bastard sisters. Descendants, traced through five generations, number at least 709, and really aggregate 1200 ; and, on the whole, form a body of criminals, prostitutes, paupers and vagabonds. Not twenty skilled workmen belonged to the whole number, and half of these learned whatever trade they knew within prison walls ; 180 received out-of-door relief ; 76 were open criminals, committing 115 offences ; and over 52 per cent of the women were abandoned to a life of shame. What a future is before a country where foreigners, ignorant, superstitious, degraded, often the criminal refuse of other lands, are permitted to find a home and multiply without any really educating, uplifting and redeeming influences !

The only hope for America is found in the assimilation of these foreign elements. They must be brought into unity as parts of one body politic. And history shows that but one assimilating power is equal to such a task—namely, a *common religious faith*. We must Christianize pagans, or they will paganize Christians. We must elevate this foreign population, or they will degrade us.

Colonies of Portuguese, driven out from Madeira in 1849, took refuge in Springfield and Jacksonville, Ill., and there, about thirty miles apart, two essentially Portuguese colonies have existed now for over forty years. The streets have been wholly given up to them in their quarter, and they have at least four churches of their own. If we go to the Sandwich Islands, amid a total population of 80,000 we shall find several thousand Japanese and 20,000 Chinese. Throughout all the lands of this hemisphere, and especially in the United States, all foreign peoples are found ; and the