

recall the horrors of the middle passage, and brought to Peru. In 1872 the number of Chinese who came was 14,530, and of that number there was an average of about ten per cent. of death-rate on the passage. The Chinese there are just the same class as the Chinese here, and are charged with being river pirates, or of that class, in fact of the lowest order. The firm I was employed with were the largest coolie importers in Peru. I believe the traffic has now been stopped. I had under me from thirty to forty Chinese.

In 1873, I believe, a dispute arose between the Portuguese authorities and the Peruvian Government as to the treatment of the coolies on board ship, at the Chinchas and Guanape Islands, where they were employed in the guano trade. That was got over, and in 1874 the importation was very large. In the meantime a strong sentiment was growing in the country against the Chinese. The laboring people, the peons, considered that the Chinese were likely to reduce the price of labor just as the people here think now, and they did in fact; because a Chinaman's contract bound him to work for \$4 a month and two pounds of rice a day. Consequently it was very likely that a peon who wanted a little comfort, who wanted a little meat with his dinner, and wanted a comfortable habitation, naturally felt that he was suffering, and in Peru, as revolutions are easily got up, it brought a certain pressure on the Government. It was the Congress, I believe, of 1875, which passed the Act putting an end in future to all this importation of coolies into Peru. The firm I was connected with, I am told, has been no longer able to carry on because of this law.

Sentiment grew up in Peru against them.

Congress of 1875.

No Chinese women at all were imported; in fact I only saw one little Chinese girl. The result of this was that crimes of the most horrible and unmentionable kind were common among them which it was found impossible to prevent. They were in point of fact sodomites of the worst kind. They were treated very badly, in many cases, in Peru.

Sodomy.

In the Guanape Islands the unfortunate wretches have thrown themselves by the hundreds into the sea in distraction. They used to get a lot of negro overseers armed with whips, and they would beat them around and all that kind of thing.

There is a class here that does not exist in Peru. I allude to merchants and some respectable Chinese; otherwise their condition, intellectual qualifications and general moral and physical condition was the same as it is here.

The Portuguese Government has regulated the traffic. They published a law or regulations, all of which I have seen published in a paper in Callao—the *South Pacific Times*. They were not observed.

A Chinaman in the streets of Valparaiso is a very rare occurrence. I have been in all parts of Chili where there are large copper mines. If they could get Chinese cheap labor there they would get it, because the labor is necessarily cheaper where a man only gets \$4 a month and is to find his own clothes.

The feeling against them in Peru in 1873 and 1874, was stronger than it can possibly be here, for the reason that the people believed that it tended to lower not only the rate of wages but their social status, and feared an intermixture of population. At the end of his contract it is compulsory for him to go back, or sign another for a like period. If they were allowed to go free and compete with labor there, there would be an insurrection almost immediately. That they work in factories I have no doubt, but that they are fit to work along with white men in such work as smelting or any work of that kind is not the fact. A man cannot work on rice