

we at once say, especially in the United States: "Raise an absolute Chinese wall and exclude all foreigners until the people have had time to digest this, to some, hydra-headed monster, like the serpent, which slimy glided up from the dark depths of ocean and crushed on Trojan shores Laocoon and his glorious sons"? Shall we, finding past efforts useless in stemming the tide of immigration which brought over a million alien people to American shores last year, give up the fight and open our gates wide, if not welcoming, at least permitting the good, indifferent and bad to enter and submit to the conditions which their intrusion has produced and must continue to create? Or shall we adopt the third possible position of recognizing the situation as we find it and deal with the problem in the same successful manner as national, state and municipal authorities have dealt with the contagions which everywhere, in former years and to-day, follow the march of commerce and transportation, whether by sea or land?

Remembering all the forces, political, commercial and social, which are ever and continually at work, the rapidly vanishing elements of distance and time, and the equally increasing approximation of the nations of the world and all human interests, it is apparent to everyone who thinks at all deeply on the subject that the latter is the only possible position. Assume the possibility of exclusion, and we behold whole fleets disappearing from the ocean almost as suddenly as that ill-fated Russian squadron in the Sea of Japan. Recently a but little susceptible people showed their power to hit back by a wholly defensible boycott, and railway magnates and other generals of commerce cry out against laws which this nation has made, and sea-board cities, which once cried "Exclude!" are now quaking as if a foreign enemy were threatening their commerce. Without further illustration, it must be apparent that the only possible position is to regulate.

Never before in the history of the world, unless when Attila's hordes poured down upon a helpless Europe, have more than a million people been transferred in a single year from one continent to another, and of all the marvels perhaps the greatest is that these have come from countries the most separated in distance, nationality, language and civilization, without the transmission of scarcely a case of any of those diseases which cause epidemics. At any rate, we can say, if such cases came, so quickly and thoroughly were they dealt with that no epidemics have resulted therefrom. We have only to compare this with the melancholy and repeated stories of the first seventy-five years of the last century, when immigration had not reached a quarter of its present proportion, in order that the members of this Association may justly take pride to themselves and say, "*Quorum sum magna pars.*" This Association, starting as it did in those