

of life, thereby disseminating the means of livelihood and aiding in the development of the country, (individually, perhaps to a small degree, but in the aggregate to a very large degree) we find observation after observation that they could not have remained in the country without that source of supply. Whatever the future may require, it is vain to contend that British Columbia would at this day, be in the position to command that future as she now has a prospect of doing, had she not had the opportunity of Chinese labor, and availed herself of it.

CHAPTER 3.

SOCIAL AND MORAL ASPECTS.

Whatever may be the results of the material or pecuniary aspect of this question, it must be admitted, that if its moral and social aspect be of such a character as to pollute the social atmosphere,—to degrade and demoralize the people,—and to introduce vice and disease, then whatever may be the consequence, the prevention of the latter is of more importance than the gain by the former.

Importance of considering the social and moral aspect.

The influences which destroy the healthy tone of a community are more subtle in their nature, more tardy and more insidious in their approach, than the causes which lead to business and commercial prosperity.

The evidence therefore taken on this point in British Columbia as well as in San Francisco and elsewhere, where opportunity of more lengthened experience, and observation on a greater scale was afforded, should be impartially as well as thoroughly examined, not to sustain a foregone conclusion either for or against the question, but to arrive at a truthful solution.

The promoters of the movement against the Chinese have repeatedly asserted that sufficient evidence has already been laid before Parliament to warrant prohibitive Legislation, covering the main objections to such immigration. These objections may be classified as follows:—

- 1st. The absorption of employment to the exclusion of white labor, and consequent retardation of the settlements of the country. Objections.
- 2nd. Absorption of domestic service and immorality engendered thereby.
- 3rd. Personal uncleanness and filthy habits of the Chinese, diseases, leprosy and crowding of habitations.
- 4th. Opium smoking, prostitution, slavery and immorality.
- 5th. Secret organizations, want of truth, evasion of taxation and expense to the administration of justice.
- 6th. Non-identify with the people of the country and withdrawal of capital resulting from their labor.

The evidence laid before Parliament will be found in the report of the Select Committee on Chinese Labor and Immigration to the House of Commons on the 14th of May, 1879, published in Vol. XIII. of the Journals, Appendix No. 4.

Evidence before Parliament, 1879.

There are four conclusions stated in that report:

1st. If more evidence is wanted than that accompanying the report it should be taken in British Columbia.

Report of Committee of House of Commons.

2nd. That the report of the Joint Committee of the Congress of the United States and of the Senate Committee of the State of California on Chinese Labor and Immigration, contain much evidence showing the undesirableness of encouraging Chinese labor and immigration.