

juvenile reformatories, a half more prisoners than the 34,000,000 of our native white population. This means that the tendency to crime in the United States is more than two and one half times as strong among those who are foreign by birth or parentage as among the native whites.

About twenty-five per cent. of our alien population is unable to speak English. There are children born on our American soil and educated in parochial schools who are as unable to speak the language of the country as are their foreign-born parents; and there are millions of foreigners among us who not only can not speak English, but who are unable to read or write their own language. Illiteracy among the foreign-born population is thirty-eight per cent. greater than among the native-born whites.

We must by no means forget our indebtedness to the immigrants. They have borne the brunt of the toil and hardship in subduing the continent and in developing its resources. They freely shed their blood in defense of the Union. They have enriched the literature of every profession; many of them are earnest Christians; and many are among our best citizens, intelligently devoted to our American institutions. But we can not forget that the quality of immigration is deteriorating, and the facts just given touching illiteracy, pauperism, and crime show that the foreign population as a whole is depressing our average intelligence and morality in the direction of the dead-line of ignorance and vice.

Horace complained that the Orontes had emptied into the Tiber, bringing with it the language and morals of the East. In like manner many a European Orontes has fouled our American waters.

When we consider the quality of immigration as a whole, and remember that it is growing distinctly poorer, it is not reassuring to reflect that Europe could send us an unceasing stream of 2,000,000 every year—as many as our present population in a single generation—and yet leave the present source of supply not only unimpaired but even increasing.

Evidently the problem of our foreign population is one of the first magnitude. This problem is primarily one of assimilation. The immigrant must first be made fit, and then, not before, incorporated into our national life.

The problem should be simplified as much as possible by restrictive legislation. This is not the place to discuss specific measures. Suffice it to say that they should effectively exclude the illiterate, the feeble-minded and the insane, all assisted immigrants, and those likely to become a public charge, and, as far as possible, all criminals. It may be added that our loose naturalization laws, which cheapen and degrade American citizenship, should be thoroughly revised.

But what can the clergy do for the stranger already within our gates? The clergy are interested in the immigrant as a foreigner and