

The other question is of more immediate interest to Canadians. It involves, in one way or another, all the issues now before us as a people, issues so great that our very existence is bound up with their determination. Such a question should surely be discussed on its merits, and as much as possible apart from political or party interests. Every man who has an intelligent opinion should express it calmly, if it be in him to speak calmly. If not, why then let him speak or write in the best way he can.

The Chinese question is a comparatively small one, so far as Canada is concerned. All the more shame to us, that an uncertain sound was given on the subject at the outset; and that one or two agitators, who pose as friends of the working man, were allowed to fancy that the idea of excluding Chinamen from our shores could be entertained for a moment by our House of Commons. In the United States, the agitation is formidable, though, even there, it is more formidable in appearance than in reality. However, as mere politicians never see beneath the surface, there is some excuse for them if they think that a tub must be thrown to the whale, when the whale takes the shape of the great States of California and Oregon. And so Republican vies with Democrat in courting Kearneyism even when Kearneyism is getting shorn of its locks. We could not expect anything else than an anti-Chinese policy from the Democratic party. Not having fugitive negroes to hunt, it naturally takes to hunting Mongolians. And when a man like Senator Bayard based his opposition to Chinese immigration upon patriotism and a philosophy of history, how can we blame the rank and file for taking up the cry more loudly than before, of 'the Chinese must go,' or 'no more Chinese must come.' Who could blame a degree for buying slaves, when the ablest Presbyterian clergyman in New Orleans defended in pulpits and church courts the divine right of slavery, with

power and even with passion! But we expected something very different from the Republican party. It had taken its stand on human rights. Under that sign it marched to victory. And now it seeks, and will seek in vain, to conjure with the spells of its beaten foe. Its position towards the Chinese, combined with those proud boasts of what it did for the slave, with which the platform opens, is another illustration of the truth that a political party is apt to exhaust its strength in doing one great work. That done, its mission is fulfilled, and,—like the Corn law league—it should dissolve. If it determines to maintain its organization, it ossifies. Corruption follows, and then—the sooner the better—death and burial. However, as I have said, United States politicians may plead that they are under a strong temptation to speak ambiguously or immorally on the Chinese question. Canadian politicians can hardly plead even that. Everything is to be said in favour of bringing more Chinese into Canada. Nothing in favour of expelling those who are already in. And the anti-Chinese party with us is scarcely more influential than the tailors of Tooley Street in Great Britain.

The Chinamen in British Columbia are, as a class, 'sober, diligent, frugal and trustworthy.' My experience was the same as Mr. Gordon's. I never saw better servants, and only wish that I could have induced one to come east with me. They get good wages, and are quite willing to take all that they can get. They have no decided preference for a low wage. It must be admitted that, instead of spending their money on brandy and soda, or calling for tubs of champagne, in which to wash their feet, like the jolly miners who were welcomed so cordially into the Province, and who have left it much as they found it, Chinamen save as much as possible to take home to their parents and children, or as a provision for old age. Such patriotism, filial piety, and forethought, I have heard