

THE CHINESE QUESTION.

A Lecture by Frank M. Pixley.

China for the Chinese, America for the Americans—The Present Migration and the Ultimate Consequences of Coolie Immigration—How Our Labor Market is Crowded with Mongolians—The Disease and Its Remedy.

The hall of the Mechanics' Institute was crowded to its utmost capacity last evening to hear the lecture of the Hon. F. M. Pixley, on the Chinese Problem. A few ladies were present. The lecturer was introduced by the President of the Institute, Mr. Halliday.

Mr. Pixley said: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen—The occasion of my addressing you to-night is owing to the accident of my having been invited recently by one of the Labor Leagues of this city to address them on the subject of the proposed railroad subsidy and the Chinese question. All of us have belonged originally to the laboring class; we have labored hard in physical toil. Some by economy and thrift have acquired some means, and are no longer obliged to labor. Some of them affect to despise the laboring class to which they belong by right and inheritance. I belong to the laboring class. I had to work hard until I got away from the old farm; but I will not boast of having labored like other men.

LABOR IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR PROSPERITY.

Whenever the labor-interest ceases to be prosperous the country ceases to be prosperous. When the mass of voters have to consult their stomach to decide how they shall vote they will overthrow the Government they are living under. I was sneered at for my speech to the laboring men, and accused of being a demagogue and desiring to get to Congress by the votes of the laboring men. Even the ponderous old *Alta* was so regardless of the ties of relationship that it had a long leader against me and my poor old *dead mule*.

I DO NOT BELIEVE in the "universal brotherhood of man and fatherhood of God." It takes a great deal of faith to believe that all who claim to be human were created by God for men. Some of them might have been intended for apes and monkeys. Many think it best to bring the Chinese here, and talk of the brotherhood of man, and fatherhood of God, and that the Chinese have the same right as ourselves to come here and get a living. Those who talk of the necessity of cheap labor are not the men who labor themselves; they are those who employ others, and want to get the cheapest. Others say it is a question between the Irish and the Chinese, and they feel like the woman whose husband was fighting with the bear—they don't care which whips. But I tell you it is not a question between the Irish and the Chinese, nor between the Germans and the Chinese. It is a contest between the idolatry of the old world and the Christianity of the new; between the symbolism of Confucius and the religion of Christ. I propose to make my argument

FROM A SELFISH STANDPOINT.

As I love my wife and children better than I love any other human beings, so do I love Americans better than any other people. [Cheers.] Had I been an American Indian when the whites first came to this continent, I would have opposed their coming. I would not want any better civilization, and would have resisted as they did. God gave four families of the human race to the world—the white, the black, the red, and the copper-colored. To the whites, He gave Europe, to the blacks, Africa; to the reds, America, and to the copper-colored, Asia. We here stand as the representatives of the white race, and as we have subdued and got possession of the country, we mean to hold it. It is ours, and I would preserve it from people of the other races who are coming here. I will not discuss whether the Chinese are superior or inferior to ourselves. That is not the question. I am charged with inconsistency in befriending the black man, and opposing the Chinese. When I came into public life, slavery had existed for many years, and was firmly established in our country; but the importation of Chinese has but just begun, and

THEIR FURTHER IMPORTATION CAN BE STOPPED.

As it required a great war to rid the country of slavery, so do I believe if this encroachment of Chinese emigration is continued, it will bring ruin to the country. They will come over here in swarms. If, as Mr. Casserly said, they are skillful, industrious, etc., then they are the more dangerous. But I am opposed to them whether superior or inferior. They are a different race and color. We do not want to mix with them. The types of the different families are as distinct now as they were centuries ago, and they will be kept distinct. It is the same with the animals. Their instinct keeps the different races of animals distinct. The Chinese are so unlike us in everything, that they cannot come unless

THEY ABSORB OR DRIVE US OUT,

Or we become a hybrid race. They number five hundred million, and they will come in immense numbers and overwhelm us. But

THE POLITICAL QUESTION IS THE GREAT ONE.

One hundred thousand Chinese immigrants have come here in twenty years. There are to-day 72,000 of them among us, 50,000 of whom are males who would be voters if they had the right of suffrage. We have opposed them with hostile legislation, and in various ways shown our opposition to their coming, yet they still continue to increase among us. Cease this opposition, subsidize the steamship line that brings them and encourage their coming, and they will pour in upon us

LIKE THE LOCUSTS OF EGYPT.

This is no idle fear. Strike down the barriers and bring them here in competition, and they will drive every white laborer out of the country. Look at the condition of women in China. In infancy they are destroyed if too numerous in the family. As they grow up they are sold into slavery, and live a degraded life. Go through the lanes of this city where they are congregated, if you dare, and see their degradation and infamy. We want no such creatures here to poison society. I was right the other night when I said if there was no legal way to prevent their being brought here to fill our hospitals, and to communicate loathsome diseases to others, I would be one to

TAKE A TORCH IN DAYLIGHT AND BURN

The steamers at our wharves that brought them. [Cheers.] Mr. Pixley then read from a book a description of the Chinese and their habits, customs, morals, religion, government, etc., which was not very flattering to them. He read it, he said, to show their social life. He then proceeded to say: Under the inevitable striking out of the word "white" from the Naturalization laws—and he believed it was inevitable, for the Republican leaders were going to do it—I cannot see why Chinamen may not vote and strike down our system of government, and our system of civilization and society, and introduce their own. I can see no reason why Mongolians and Tartars might not sit in the President's chair, and in our halls of legislation and make laws for us. The industrial question is an important one in considering this subject. We do not want cheap labor, we want

CHEAP MONEY AND DEAR LABOR.

Cheap labor is a heresy. [Immense cheering.] No Government ever flourished under cheap labor. Every country paying high prices for labor is prosperous. For us to say we want immigration, and to form immigration societies asking Europeans to come here, and tell them we pay high prices for labor, and bid them leave their homes and come to the great Republic, where there are homes and farms for them all; at the same time we are giving subsidies to steamship lines to bring men here who work for ten cents a day—that is not the way to induce the white race to come and make their homes among us. If you want cheap labor, give increased subsidies to the steam lines, and send to Asia for it. The much talked of

CONFLICT BETWEEN CAPITAL AND LABOR,

He said, was a good deal of a myth. Capital was useless without labor; labor must starve without capital. If he had a million dollars that very night, of what use would they be to him without the laborer; whereas, labor could at least support itself by the fruits of the earth, and in that respect occupied a higher position, and was more independent than capital. As to the characteristics of

THE LABORERS COMING IN UPON US.

For 5,000 years they had been in the habit of living on rice. It had been and was now their staple food, and they could do a good day's work upon it alone. But the white laborer must have his meat, or he can't work. A Chinese laborer's food need not cost him more than from seven to ten cents a day, while a white laborer could not live on less than seventeen or twenty cents, at the lowest estimate. Even the food of the convicts in the prisons, consisting solely of bread and meat, cost twenty cents per day. It was useless to think of white laborers

COMPETING WITH CHINESE.

They could not do it. He had known men heartless enough to say: "Let them compete; let them live on rice; then, if they are not able to earn more." But they could not do it; they would starve and die if they attempted it. The Chinese had been in the habit of living upon the water, crowded upon their river boats, and could dwell like rats in a hole. The white laborer, with his respectable wife and his girl of fourteen years of age, perhaps, and his boy could not live and eat and sleep and cook in one room. The girl must have her separate room, and the boy must have his separate room, or they could not consider themselves to be respectable moral and religious. The American man must have his three or four rooms, or he does not feel respectable. Whereas the Chinese would bunk fifty together, in an apartment with a brazier in the center at which all the cooking would be done—all this in a space that would hardly be sufficient for four of our own citizens. There was a gentleman, a friend of his, a cigar manufacturer in this city, who had fifty Chinese bunking together in a loft over a stable, which was only large enough for six horses. He would put it

TO PROPERTY HOLDERS.

How many horses would the 1,300 Chinamen, who came in on the previous day's steamer occupy? How different it would have been had 1,300 white laborers marched up our streets with, and their 500 virtuous wives beside them, and their 200 stalwart sons. They would have established themselves in offices in time, built or occupied houses, taken farms, while those 1,300 Chinamen that had arrived, were at that very time reeking and festering in their dirty dens, and if they were capable of any sense of thankfulness for the termination of their voyage, were even then worshipping the *Josesses*. And, said he, Americans meet all that comes, standing and seeing; this plague of lice, or worse, come upon them, eating up their substance, and bringing thousands of men to the brink of ruin.

WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS

Thirty thousand laboring people had left this State; they had gone away and were not coming back to compete with Chinamen, which meant only death, starvation, ignominy, and disgrace. No country could prosper unless its producers were consumers also. But those Chinese had brought enough rice and opium with them to keep their bellies full and their heads drunk for a year to come. Thirteen hundred white men would produce something, and would spend it in the country. Whereas all the Chinese population did not give employment to ten white men. Instead, they stole the bread of 1,300 white laborers, whom they displaced from the labor market of this State. That steamer on Friday had brought 1,300 Chinese. There would soon be two steamers a month—that would be 2,600 per month, 30,000 a year, even while being opposed by adverse legislation and by public sentiment; but if this barrier were broken down, there would be 30,000 next year, and 60,000 the year after that, until they felt strong enough to defy Christian civilization, and bring over their herds to overrun this land like Timour and his hosts. It was absurd to talk of competing with them.

A PARABLE.

A German who had come into his office the other day had used an illustration which he should repeat. He had said that the American nation reminded him of a small band of gallant horsemen, enclosed with a light fence, which they could leap if they pleased, proud of their freedom and strength, and up to the knees in clover. A few pigs creep under the fence; the horses pay no attention to them; they continue to creep in; the horse that has a foal every year cannot compete with the pig that has a multitude every month;

the pigs root up the grass, the horses languish and grow weaker and weaker until they are unable even to leap the fence and get away; finally they die; and the pig is left master of the field. "Very good story, that, for a Dutchman, eh?" ARE THE CHINESE STEALING THE LABOR?

Now let them consider, said he, whether the Chinese were really stealing the labor, or, in other words, the bread from white men. When he came to this country first, in 1849, he and the others went to the Eastern slope of the Sierras and dug for gold; some got it, others didn't. Well, whenever they began to pay less than \$4 or \$5 a day they were abandoned and the Chinese came and took them, and at this day the Chinese formed the real population of the mining counties of California. In every country that he had known poverty was staved off by

THE WASH-TUB.

Was the husband helpless, or idle, or dissolute, the woman took in washing, and supported herself and family. The invasion of Chinamen had deprived many a table of the bread that might have been earned at the wash-tub. How was it with

CIGARS?

A few years ago Germans made all the cigars in San Francisco; to-day, there was not a German who rolled a cigarette. Chinamen made them all. Matches, slippers—all made by Chinamen.

WOOLEN FACTORIES,

With Chinese in almost entire control. Only a few days ago eight men had been discharged from one of these factories. One of the men, with a wife and children wholly dependent on the \$3 a day which he got as wages, offered to take \$1 50, "No," \$1, "No," for they had hired Chinamen at \$0 cents a day.

ROPE-MAKING

Was in the hands of the Chinese; cigar-box making, the manufacture of tubs and pails; door-sashes and frames they were beginning to make; and it looked as though they would soon be able to turn them out as well and cheaper as white carpenters. Tailoring, the largest trade in this country, was becoming filled up with Chinese workmen, and he felt sure that, in two years, no white man would sit cross-legged upon his bench. At boot and shoe-making there were now 250 Chinese at work in this city. They were the domestic servants; they manufactured the fireworks, and it would not be long before the sewing-machine would be in their hands. There was no reason why they should not

SET TYPE

For fifteen cents per 1,000 ems as well as they are now set for sixty cents, and he did not know that some of them could not be found to edit papers as well as some were edited now. Some one here called for

THREE GROANS FOR THE "ALTA"

"No, no," said the speaker, "as soon as you get popular the *Alta* will be your strongest friend." The Chinese, he continued, never did

THE REALLY HEAVY WORK

Anywhere. In mines they never went into the tunnels; on farms they picked strawberries, did not wield the plow; in the forest they did not handle the lumber. All that heavy toil they left to white men; devoting themselves to such work as was light, needing dexterity of finger, and could be done sitting down. The Chinese had never planted a sugar-cane nor a tea-plant brought over by themselves, and during the twenty years they had been in the country had not added one idea or one single invention to American industries. They made

NO PROGRESS.

They were now where they were three thousand years ago. While our forefathers were wandering in skins, ignorant and barbarous, ere they came down upon the fair plains of Italy, the Chinese were a great nation. He did not know how it was, but there was in the white race the germ of progress, while the Chinese race ever remained where it was, except perhaps that it was progressing this way a little. As to

THE REMEDY.

← The speaker said that in the first place the idea of the suffering of the laboring classes at the present time was probably exaggerated. But yet hardly a day passed that he did not have some poor man or woman standing before him pleading for work; not begging, but only asking for an opportunity to earn some bread. He thought that Government peculiarly unfortunate that could not provide labor and pay for it. It was

THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT

To make the most sweeping laws until every man and every woman was provided with work, and he said were he Cato Gracchus and this city Rome, he would reform the laws even up to the point, if it were necessary, of making every rich man divide and divide his property, again and again, until labor sufficient for all had been provided.

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE.

He said the rich and the well-off must help the poor. It was easy for men rising from well-spread tables to preach patience to starving workmen, with starving wives and children; but it was not so easy to submit patiently to see the bread which the little ones ought to have, carried off by a horde of barbarians. The speaker referred to the absurdity of telling penniless men to go into the country and farm; to the one-sided operation of the treaty with China, which country held out no inducements for us to go there, while ours held out every inducement for the Chinese to come and live here. A treaty he earnestly argued, ought to be rejected forthwith, or, at least, never be renewed. In referring to the remark of the *Sacramento Reporter*, that he intended to run for office, he said that if he could so lose himself in the eyes of the public, without transgressing the law, as to effectually preclude the chance of any vote ever being cast for him, he would do it that very night; that he was only sorry that he had ever demanded himself to run for office at all, and that he never would again as long as he lived. He said that a gentleman would probably address them next Saturday night on the other side of the Chinese question, but that he knew his argument would be based on dollars and cents, and for that present time only, without regard to posterity. He said that if the laboring men could be convinced that those who had the means and the power were really interested in their welfare, and were doing their best to ameliorate their condition, he could vouch for their patience and forbearance. After making some very unnecessary excuses for the little preparation that he had been able to give to his speech, he concluded a very eloquent oration, to which our digest does but scant justice, by professing, whether he was right or wrong, his entire sincerity. Throughout he was heartily applauded.

The President then announced a lecture on "Chinese Labor," by H. C. Bennett, for next Saturday, and the meeting dispersed.

JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

There are only ten ship-carpenters at work in this city at the present time. Cherries, principally the black, wild variety, are now selling at forty cents per pound in the markets. General L. U. Allen returned from a visit to New York last evening, and is staying at the Grand Hotel. Mr. Huefner, of the *Abend Post*, was badly hurt in an affray in a saloon on California street, on Friday afternoon.

Seven of the owners of the \$90 lots, the title to which was perfected about two months ago, are erecting buildings on their land.

The alarm at half-past two p. m. yesterday was occasioned by a slight fire in the manufactory of Dore & Co., in the southern portion of the city. Nominal damage.

Charles Bernard, coffee and spice dealer, security for Ghirdelli to the amount of \$15,000, yesterday paid in full the amount for which he had become responsible.

John Savage, the Fenian Chief and distinguished Irish orator, will lecture at Platt's Hall on Tuesday evening next, on "Wolfe Tone and the English interest in Ireland."

Hon. John B. Alley, one of the Directors of the Union Pacific Railroad, accompanied by a party of five gentlemen, arrived from Boston last night, and are stopping at the Grand Hotel.

The schooner *Ella Francis*, which arrived on Friday, brought with it the body of Captain Leesen, of the brig *Crimea*, who was drowned while crossing the bar at Humboldt Bay, a few days ago.

E. V. Joyce, newly-admitted attorney at law, filed his bond yesterday in the office of the County Court Clerk: \$5,000 is the amount. R. H. Waterman and Anthony Ludlam are the sureties.

Yesterday afternoon Detective Stone arrested J. W. McAllemy, a soldier, on a charge of grand larceny, for the alleged theft of a gold watch valued at \$150, from a drunken man in a saloon on Kearny street.

On Monday, the first case under the Act relative to old street assessments, which were defeated and set aside on mere technicalities, will come before the Commissioners, Maynard, Furrish and Thompson.

The congregation of the church of which Dr. Stone is the eloquent pastor, are preparing to erect a new church edifice at the southeast corner of Post and Mason streets. It has been suggested that the pulpit casements be stuffed with flea powder.

An individual who gave the name of Charles Brownley was arrested by Detectives Stone and Sowell last evening on a charge of felony. It is alleged that he was in the habit of visiting the various hotels and packing off all the clothing he could lay his hands on.

On Friday, while the street graders were at work on Sacramento street, above Powell, a sand-bank gave way for the distance of about 100 feet, and brought down with it a frame house, which had stood on the top. Nobody was hurt, but the house looked badly afterward.

The regular meeting of the Dashways will be held this evening at the hall on Post street. The exercises will consist of an address, by Mrs. M. Field—subject, "Temperance;" reading of a poem, by Alf. Burnett; and singing, by Miss Porter, the Pfeiffer sisters, and others.

The Coroner's jury in the case of the boy James W. McNulty, accidentally killed on Market street on Thursday, returned a verdict of death by suffocation. In the case of George Schmidt, killed by falling from a wagon at the Potrero on the same day, a verdict of death by dislocation of the neck was returned.

At a meeting held on Friday night at Dashway Hall, a new military company, to be known as the "California Rifles," was organized. Sixty members enrolled themselves, and the following officers were elected: Captain, Dr. Charles C. O'Donnell; First Lieutenant, John Treanor; Second Lieutenant, Mr. Dugan; Secretary, J. Tierney; Treasurer, C. T. Brennan.

The request of the Grand Army of the Republic that the Second Brigade, S. N. G., act as escort at the annual visit to the graves of deceased soldiers, has been declined with thanks, on the ground that the parades of this month were so numerous that it would be impossible to make a good display on the occasion referred to.

The Pacific Submarine and Earthquake-proof Wall Company filed a certificate of incorporation yesterday. Trustees—B. M. Hartsborne, George W. Gibbs, Isaac E. Davis, R. E. Raymond, and W. J. Adams. Capital, \$209,000, in 2,000 shares of \$100 each. Object, to sell the right to use the Foye patent in the construction of submarine and surface walls, on the Pacific coast.

A special rehearsal of the Handel and Haydn Society will be held on Monday evening, 16th inst., at the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, at a quarter to eight o'clock sharp. This is the last rehearsal before going to Sacramento, and all are especially invited to be present and to bring their copies of the *Stabat Mater* and the *Festal Chorus Book*. At this rehearsal the tickets and all arrangements will be distributed and all arrangements completed and announced concerning the comfort and convenience of the excursionists.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner.

Further reproduction without permission.