

That he is a slave, reduced to the lowest terms of beggarly economy, and is no fit competitor for an American freeman.

That he herds in scores, in small dens, where a white man and wife could hardly breathe, and has none of the wants of a civilized white man.

That he has neither wife nor child, nor expects to have any.

That his sister is a prostitute from instinct, religion, education, and interest, and degrading to all around her.

That American men, women and children cannot be what free people should be, and compete with such degraded creatures in the labor market.

That wherever they are numerous, as in San Francisco, by a secret machinery of their own, they defy the law, keep up the manners and customs of China, and utterly disregard all the laws of health, decency and morality.

That they are driving the white population from the state, reducing laboring men to despair, laboring women to prostitution, and boys and girls to hoodlums and convicts.

That the health, wealth, prosperity and happiness of our State demand their expulsion from our shores.¹⁶

In the course of the 1876 the state's numerous anti-coolie clubs had united in the Anti-Chinese Union, whose members had pledged not to employ Chinese, not to purchase goods from those who did, and not to sustain Chinese or the employers of Chinese. By the following year, the Anti-Chinese Union would be overshadowed by the more radical Workingman's Party of California. This group, under the leadership of Denis Kearney, a charismatic but unprincipled Irish American politician, rallied a white working class around anti-Chinese and anti-monopoly banners.¹⁷ In that year, the song "Twelve Hundred More" was one of scores written and sung that excoriated the Chinese in California. Its lyrics repeat the charges against the Chinese that had been published in the *Marin Journal* and that were being repeated in sandlots all over California.

O workingmen dear, and did you hear
The news that's goin' round?
Another China Steamer
Has landed here in town.
Today I read the papers
And it grieved my heart full sore
To see upon that title page
O Just "Twelve Hundred More!"

O, California's coming down,
As you can plainly see:
They are hiring all the Chinamen
And discharging you and me;
But strife will be in every town

ROBERT

G.

LEE,

ORIENTALS

RESOLUTION
IN
MARIN
JOURNAL
1876

Throughout the Pacific Shore
And the cry of old and young shall be,
"O, damn 'Twelve Hundred More!'"

They run their steamer in at night
Upon our lovely bay,
If 'twas free and honest trade,
They'd land it in the day.
They come here by the hundreds—
The country is overrun.
And go to work at any price—
By them the labor's done.

If you took a workman in the street
And look him in the face,
You'll see signs of sorrow there—
O damn this long tailed race
And men today are languishing
Upon a prison floor,
Because they've been supplanted by
This vile "Twelve Hundred More."

Twelve hundred honest laboring men
Thrown out of work today
By the land of the Chinamen
In San Francisco Bay
Twelve hundred pure and virtuous girls
In the papers I have read,
Must barter way their virtue
To get a crust of bread.

This state of things can never last
In this, our golden land
For soon you'll hear the avenging cry,
"Drive out the Chinaman!"
And then we'll have the stirring times
We had in days of yore,
And the devil take those dirty words,
They call "Twelve Hundred More!"¹⁸

It is notable that "Twelve Hundred More" is sung to the tune of "O Mother Dear," an Irish nationalist song whose lyrics begin,

Oh Mother Dear and did you hear
The news that's goin' round.
The Shamrock is forbid by law
To grow on Irish ground.¹⁹