

is not able to protect himself from the encroachments of the white race, more disciplined, more arrogant, more aggressive, and, on our western shores, the fanatical watch word is the expulsion of the "leperous Heathen," "the groveling Chinese," the Asiatic slave, etc. These by-names are the buttresses that seemingly support the Cathedral of State; the real solid foundation on which it rests, is, that the old civilization of Asia is able to do the same work at a less price than is possible for the younger development of Europe or America. The Indian question is easy. Let them be starved, cheated, hunted to death. The Negro question is not much more difficult to solve. They also can die out, mix with the white race, or move to states where they are allowed to live in their own way, but the Asiatic question is growing day by day.

For a moment consider the material advance of the world in the last few decades. Before the year 1,800, the interior of France and Germany in Europe, scarcely produced enough for the local demand. The people were in abject destitution and misery, and there were, comparatively, neither manufactures nor trade. A few years passed, and London became the commercial capital of the world because her ocean highways brought to her doors the products of every sea coast. A decade or so more, and railways made every European city a seaport, and we find the lands of northwestern Europe, supplying the world with cloth, linen, iron, silks and watches. An era of prosperity commenced that was never to cease!

Scarcely a score of years pass and Switzerland's industries are ruined. Germany, Austria and England are in a struggle of despair, because American machine-made watches supplant the Swiss in their own market, because New England hills supply the markets of the world cheaper than Europe can; because the Western prairies of the Mississippi valley send abroad all the products of

agriculture for less than it will pay to produce them in Europe. The floodtide of prosperity has reached us, but woe to the individual, the nation, or the race that is not prepared for the ebb. The population of the world does not increase rapidly, yet the next few years will bring into competition with America the large and fertile tracts of Hungary, Turkey and Russia. Development has but frilled the edges of Arabia and Africa. The Suez canal, the Panama railroad, and the countless lines of steamers have made Asia a next door neighbor; yet in this Asia, there are nations with a civilization older in centuries than we are in years. Already, beyond competition, they supply the world with opium, tea, silk, delicate porcelain, basket ware and fans.

Japan, China and India have as yet few railroads, few river steamboats, but they have countless mountains of iron and other metals, countless tracts of coal, and they have almost five hundred million laborers, ready and willing to work for a few cents a day, when European and native schools shall have developed the intelligence that is to lead this host of skilled labor. The question of Asiatic competition cannot be met by denunciation, persecution and fanatical hate, for if the fabric of Arian, of Anglo Saxon, of American civilization is threatened and endangered by the presence of a hundred thousand ignorant Chinamen, ten thousand miles away from their home, the edifice must be rotten indeed.

While yet the sun of prosperity shines let us prepare. If in wisdom, knowledge and economy, we keep but thirty years ahead of the rest of the world, we are safe forever. The force now spent in denunciation and hate, the wealth and energy wasted in vice, the saving yet possible through co-operation and machinery is the great reserve from which we may draw for years to come, and the qualities which are to make this reserve available are enlightenment, character and knowledge.

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