

TO RESTRICT IMMIGRATION.

Our statesmen and our press are occasionally in sore straits as to how to maintain the national character of being the land of the free, the home of the brave and the asylum of the oppressed of all nations, and yet restrict immigration so that we can practically select those whom we propose to admit into the national family circle. When Senator Evarts was secretary of state he proposed to undo the Gordian knot by cutting it—there should be no futile dalliance in the matter; and taking counsel of Horace Greeley's method of resumption—which was to resume—he started in to restrict by restricting. His scheme was not a success, and showed that he was more capable of dealing with the subject of law mixed with politics than of manipulating the rudder of the ship of state; and but little of comfort has come from the efforts in that direction of any one else.

Now comes the New York *Herald* with a plan which in one sense is strictly American even if it be absurd. It suggests that every incoming immigrant be required to pay an admission fee of one hundred dollars! By such means we would also have a few more office-holders perhaps—national door-keeper and assistants, for instance! Such a suggestion brings the national character down instead of keeping it up. It is mercenary exclusiveness, not statesmanship in any sense. It is, as the Chicago *Mail* says, ludicrous, almost criminal. It is not the absence of money on the part of the immigrant that makes him a possibly dangerous citizen. It is the absence of character, of intelligence, of adaptability to American institutions.

"America is too much cursed with plutocracy already," says our cotemporary. "It is mind, not money, that makes the man and the desirable American citizen. It is easy enough for a criminal to steal a hundred dollars to insure him safe passage past the Immigration Scylla, or even for a European committee to furnish a mendicant with that amount if sure by so doing that they are thus forever rid of a pauper. New York has frequently been spoken of as an un-American city. This suggestion of the *Herald* is certainly a most un-American idea."

It is the same with this as it has been with some other national subjects: it is not grasped in a broad and comprehensive spirit, in consonance with the theory of our structure and its institutions; it is tinkered with and nibbled at, and the whole business is undignified and unworthy.

THE DANGERS AT HAND.

If it be true as reported that a huge mountain lion invaded the northern part of the city yesterday and acted as though in quest of prey, it is a very serious matter. It should be borne in mind that the unusually heavy snow-falls we have been receiving in this part of the country of late have been very much heavier in the mountain tops and near them than in the habitable districts, and this invariably has the effect of driving wild beasts out of their accustomed haunts, and with

their customary base of supplies cut off they become fiercely ravenous and correspondingly venturesome. A mountain lion is, in such cases, apt to be as dangerous a beast as his African brother, and either will take desperate chances, always, seemingly, preferring human victims to any others.

The heartrending occurrence in a Colorado town a month or so ago, in which a small child who had wandered but a little way from the house was seized by one of these ferocious beasts and borne away to his fastnesses, should alone be sufficient to put on their guard those who live adjacent to mountains which have not been fully subjugated by man; and when one of the prowlers actually comes within the city's limits, and stands at bay in a citizen's back yard until frightened away by a lamp, the feeling of admiration for the audacity exhibited which might arise for a moment should give way to one of alarm. What if a child had been in the monster's path coming or going? Then the only feeling which would pervade the community would be one of destructiveness for the whole leonine race, and it is just as well that something of this feeling prevail beforehand; at least those who live in the more exposed places should be provided with effective firearms and see to it that their powder is kept dry.

This all reads so much like the early days that it will doubtless cause many to smile; but, without blaming them particularly, we insist upon it that it is not a smiling matter. Whether the incident referred to occurred as stated or not, because of the prevailing snows and general inclemency it is nothing more than might happen. It should be remembered that the city has been spreading in every direction until in the northern limits it reaches the actual haunts of wild animals, or what were such a few years ago; these have not been exterminated by any means, nor have they been driven out of the country, but only crowded further back. Even with that they are not so far away that they cannot and will not come within sight if not within range this kind of weather. Small herds of deer have repeatedly made their appearance within a stone's throw of the nearest house, and these are the most timid and suspicious of all wild animals; if they will venture so far under a stress of circumstances, what may we not look for from the mountain lion, which has no fear to speak of and only gets out of our way because of that instinct in beast which informs them that we are in possession of means of destruction with which their native powers and strength cannot cope?

To add to the uncomfortableness of the situation, we are presently afflicted with a gang of wild beasts disguised as human beings, and these prowl around actually within the shadow of the constabulary, doubtless laying their plans and giving out assignments for attack and plunder within the sound and hearing of the City Hall! They cannot be or have not been caught, nor, so far as known, any one of them. Immunity from punishment makes them bolder and bolder, and we may look for them to begin operations in broad daylight before long unless some sort of check is administered without delay. Self-

protection is a natural and necessary outgrowth of the lack of protection otherwise, and if we must resort to it it is better to do so before the law-abiding and well-disposed suffer beyond redemption.

Wild beasts watching for opportunities from without, and their human counterparts doing the same thing from within, imparts a rather unpleasant feeling even when one is measurably used to it.

THE RESULT.

It begins to look as though we would not find out how the late elections went until beginning preparations for the next national contest; but so far as the Presidency is concerned, the roll is at last made up, and stands as follows:

FOR CLEVELAND.

The South.....	159
California.....	8
Connecticut.....	6
Illinois.....	24
Indiana.....	15
Michigan.....	5
New Jersey.....	10
New York.....	36
Ohio.....	1
Wisconsin.....	12
Total.....	276

FOR HARRISON.

California.....	1
Iowa.....	13
Kansas.....	1
Maine.....	6
Massachusetts.....	15
Michigan.....	9
Minnesota.....	9
Montana.....	3
Nebraska.....	8
New Hampshire.....	4
Ohio.....	22
Oregon.....	3
Pennsylvania.....	32
Rhode Island.....	4
South Dakota.....	4
Vermont.....	4
Washington.....	4
Total.....	142

FOR WEAVER.

Colorado.....	4
Idaho.....	3
Kansas.....	9
Nevada.....	3
North Dakota.....	3
Oregon.....	1
Wyoming.....	3
Total.....	26

Cleveland's plurality, 134; majority over both Harrison and Weaver, 108, or nearly two-thirds.

All is now settled but the Senate, and it soon will be. It is announced from Wyoming that the Republicans have gained the day there; this would leave only Montana and Kansas hanging in the balances of doubt and on them the political status of the upper house of Congress would seem to depend. Even if the Republicans capture both they will still be in the minority unless they can manage to make terms with the Populists in the California legislature and thus choose a Republican in the face of an opposition majority; this, however, is exceedingly unlikely. The chances are that the roll call on the opening of the Senate next March will show 43 Democrats, 43 Republicans and