

resistance—the philosophy of the brute—but by its opposite, by virtue, by righteousness, there will be no permanent victory over the evil forces at work upon the earth.

IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION AGAIN.

The chief representative of the demand for further restrictive immigration laws in this country—the Immigration Restrictive League of Boston—is sending out literature in response to the statement made by some leading newspapers that the foreign vote influenced the result of the late presidential election. The league's letters contain some data that are quite interesting and some conclusions that are logical, with others that are not. As to the influence of the foreign vote on the late election, it is made clear that there was no division on the lines of foreign and native born citizens, hence the statement of a foreign-born vote, as such, influencing the election is shown to be entirely imaginative. But on this particular point the league indicates that its proposed changes in legislation would have kept out a very small proportion of those who voted, since it does not make the way a man will vote in any particular election a test of his general desirability as a citizen.

The point the league seeks to have more fully impressed in the immigration laws is that illiteracy and general undesirability go together; that the illiterates are the Slav, Latin and Asiatic races, the average illiteracy among those of this class admitted in 1895 being 40.1 per cent and covering immigration from Austria-Hungary, Italy, Poland and Russia; while those who came from Great Britain, France, Germany and Scandinavia could not be called illiterate, since only 3.7 per cent of them could not read. As a very large proportion of the Slav, Latin and Asiatic races who come to the United States do not become naturalized, while the greater portion of the British, Scandinavians and Germans do, it is seen that a law which excludes only those of the former classification does not affect the foreign vote materially.

The present immigration laws of this country are quite strict on the matter of allowing undesirable persons to land in the United States—a fact that seems to be lost sight of or purposely ignored by those who agitate for further legislation in that line. The statutes now provide for the exclusion of all criminals, paupers, contract laborers, or other undesirable persons, giving officials broad discretion in the matter of determining who are objectionable; and if immigration officers pursue their duties with ordinary care and diligence it would seem that the present law would be sufficient. Its operations have reached back only a few years; and it is notable in this connection that the Boston league and other anti-immigrationists argue mainly from data furnished by the census of 1890 and other conditions existing before the present statute was in full and fair operation, thus presenting a false issue before the country. To the extent that they do this, their efforts are suspicious, to say the

least. People who work for fair reforms are satisfied with showing the real situation from which a change is asked; and Congress is likely to discover this weak point in the present agitation.

The truth of the statement that illiteracy and general undesirability in immigrants go together depends very much on the manner and place of its application. When taken in connection with the greater proportion of the more serious and prevalent crimes in this nation the past five years, there would appear good reason to deny the proposition altogether, for it has been established beyond cavil that by far the larger number of criminals in embezzlements, thefts, robberies, notably immoral offenses, and even murders, have been from among those who are not classed as illiterate. The educated criminal is by far the most dangerous in this nation today.

As applied to certain European peoples, the test of illiteracy would be most unsatisfactory. In respect to British, German and Scandinavian immigrants it would not reach objectionable persons at all, for everybody in those countries has a chance of learning to read and write; therefore illiteracy and general undesirability do not go together in those peoples. Regarding the Slav, Latin and Asiatic races, the rule is equally unsafe; and further, it is unjust. If it had been applied a few scores of years ago to Britain, Germany and Scandinavia, the most desirable settlers of America would have been excluded. Today the Slav and Latin countries are as little progressed in the matter of education as the others were a century ago; but they have in them just as large a proportion of moral, law-abiding people who make good citizens anywhere. Take Portugal, for instance, where the rule of the dominant church is against popular education, with 60 per cent of the people illiterate there is no more extensive criminal development than in this country with only 8 per cent illiteracy. The standard of book-learning is not always the gauge of training in true morality; it is as variable as the condition of the nations themselves. Higher educational attainments are very desirable in nations and in individuals, but the immigrant who cannot read and write, who is industrious, moral and loyal, and who has in him intelligence and energy to acquire a rudimentary education, is incomparably more desirable as a citizen than the educated importation who devotes his ability to tricks and schemes whose clever lawlessness is a bane to good government anywhere. If every adult immigrant had to present a fair record of thrift, honesty, and loyalty in his own country, duly authenticated, and all had to establish those qualities in their immediate ancestry, it would be a test beside which that of illiteracy would be mere bagatelle, in addition to the present requirements of the immigration laws.

PERSECUTING CHRISTIANS.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat of December 9 contains a dispatch of the day previous from Live Oak, Florida,

which says that five Mormon Elders, whose names are given as W. H. Fisher, Joseph A. West, J. W. Munser, T. F. Warden and J. H. Harris, had been forced to leave Suwannee county, Florida, and that the "converts to Mormonism were given notice that they would be treated in a similar manner unless they renounced the doctrines which they have recently professed." The dispatch assumes to give details of the causes which led to this action on the part of a mob numbering about 200 persons, but these are manifestly inaccurate, though it is possible that the main event recorded in the dispatch may have occurred.

Such an experience on the part of Mormon missionaries is not at all strange in Florida and some other States. The people who engage in these mobocratic demonstrations against Mormons profess to be Christians, and there is rarely a movement of that character antagonistic to the Mormons that is not led by a pretended Christian preacher. The satanic nature of their pretenses is evidenced by their actions. It is the same spirit which, eighteen centuries ago, caused the disciples of Christ to be driven from city to city, to be scourged, imprisoned, and put to death; and in these modern instances of persecuting the disciples of the Master, the wicked design is helped along materially by some pretended Christian ministers in cities of this State, who hypocritically preach peace and good will to their congregations, and who are unmolested and will continue to be among the Mormons whose sons and brothers they do their best to deprive of liberty and life by inciting mobs to assault them.

Neither is it any new experience for Mormons to be required to recant from their profession or belief in the Lord Jesus and their action of conforming to the ordinances He taught as necessary to enter the fold of Christ or to accept the alternative of being beaten and driven from their homes. But of recent years there has been less of this extreme than formerly. In the case of the converts in Florida, the effect of the mobocratic ultimatum probably will be the same as a similar demand was upon the Apostle Peter and upon true disciples of Christ in ancient and modern times—that these disciples will choose to obey God rather than man, and trust Him for the consequences. But it will be a disgrace to the officers of the law in Florida if these outrages are allowed to go unpunished. It may be too much to expect such papers as the Globe-Democrat to denounce this religious persecution of Mormons; they may very well descend on the barbarity of the Spanish in Cuba, but if the Spanish inquisition were on their side in a controversy, their attitude in modern cases of the kind suggests that the matter of requiring a recantation of religious doctrines under pain of torture is a proper thing in their eyes.

But while occasional instances like that alleged to have taken place at Live Oak may occur, it is not to be inferred that the better class of people in Florida give it their approval. In fact, there is abundant and conclusive evidence that they do not. While mobocrats occasionally take their way in depriving the