

bids a citizen of this State from the indulgence in his widest investigation of the evils resulting to the country from the yearly infusion into the masses of our population of half a million of foreigners, what interdict of law, custom, or civic obligation there is to prevent the people of the United States in view of such an overshadowing mischief as results from the indiscriminate bestowal of citizenship upon those strangers, from adopting such guards and restraints for the protection of their own nationality, as they may think the case requires. The very fact that the foreign emigration has already become a visible and significant power in this State, that it outnumbered the native population in some districts of the country, that it is powerful enough to dictate the policy of states in our limit, that it is intrinsically hostile in large numbers of its own masses to the institutions of a whole section of this confederacy, and that it has become essential to the numerical majority, and consequently political power of a party, which would lose its control if deprived of these reinforcements; such facts as these have awakened the attention of every thoughtful citizen to the gravest reflections touching the future, we are preparing for our posterity, and now fill all minds with anxious care to arrest and disarm the evil in the present day, with what sentiment of surprise would that action of our countrymen learn that in treating this subject as enlightened statesmen seeking to check a dangerous abuse. They were perpetrating moral treason, trampling under foot the constitution of the nation; "segregating and dividing the people into clans and classes," and kindling the fires of a civil war, "a war of races and sects," which is declared to be the *deadliest curse* that can afflict a nation. No matter into what clans and classes these strangers may enrol themselves; what secret societies they may establish; what purposes they may harbor for the reform of our Government, or for entangling us in war abroad at the expense of treaties and national faith, what catechisms they may address to candidates for office, and what private combinations they may form to chastise such as do not answer to their liking—all these things may pass unrebuked, or even with the complacent flattery of party acquiescence, as being altogether compatible