

in the interior and western portions of our Union, vacant and unoccupied, which it has been and is the dictate of sound governmental policy, as well as the evident design of Providence, should be filled up with an industrious, and civilized, and christianized population of *freemen*, as rapidly and as soon as that end can be produced by easy and regular means, a part, and a large part of which means, was and is, to free those lands from the occupation and inroads of savage tribes,—to survey them and offer them for sale and use, freely to all, at very low prices. This, together with our happy system of laws and benignant form of government, offered strong temptations to the better, if not the best, classes of European peasantry, the industrious and enterprising, to emigrate to this country, and fix their future homes and the homes of their posterity upon those lands, where they could not only with ease obtain abundance and independence, but also become freemen.

Thus impelled, the tide of emigration set strongly upon our shores. Thousands, and tens of thousands, and hundreds of thousands came, and are coming every year, and wending their way to those regions. They brought along with them, it is true, a portion of those dregs of the worthlessness, vice and crime, which exist more or less in all communities. These last generally faltered on the way, and were dropped, or loitered in the Atlantic cities, or wandered about within a few hundred miles of the Atlantic coast—they were injurious and offensive, and by them, (the excrementitious portion,) the whole body of emigrants were to a great extent judged; hence one cause of the excitement against foreigners.

But the great mass of emigrants, tarrying not at all, swept on westward—there selecting homes and settling down promiscuously and in common with the native emigrants, who, more numerous by far, and flowing with an equally steady current in the same direction, rapidly filled up large portions of those regions. Wildernesses became peopled districts—wastes were converted into cultivated fields, and communities and new states were formed. Community of interests, feeling and condition, produced fellowship in feeling and wishes between natives and emigrants from afar. As freemen, they were to select and elect their own political functionaries; and as they became States, they were also to elect their own immediate agents and representatives in the Federal Government, and to participate in the elections of those who were to be the common functionaries of all the States.

They had and have the right within themselves, each State for itself, to prescribe and fix the qualifications of voters—to say by law who may and who may not exercise the right of voting at elections. This right is exclusive in each State, and guaranteed