

ADDRESS.

Y. M. C. A. Yonkers, N. Y.

January 19, 1902.

No. 20, Vol. 9.

SUBJECT:

Chinese Exclusion.



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January 19, 1903.

No. 30, Vol. 3.

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Chinese

*At Yorktown N.Y.
Jan 19, 1902*

YOUNG MEN AND FRIENDS.

Before commencing my address proper this afternoon, permit me to say a few words concerning a subject that is engrossing my attention and bears heavily upon my mind and heart at this time. It concerns a people who, as a rule, know so little of our language and customs that they are in a measure helpless. I refer to the Chinese who are found in nearly every city and village of the land, usually in small numbers, but who are more numerous in the larger cities like New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis and San Francisco. When I was quite young Hon. Anson Burlingame, our ambassador succeeded in opening parts of China for the entrance of our citizens. By his labors a formal treaty was made, which promises on the part of both nations that our people shall be treated according to the most favored nation and that on ~~the~~ ^{our} other side the Chinese should also be treated after the manner of the citizens of the most favored nation when in our midst. In 1894 another treaty was entered into for the period of ten years, which was intended to exclude Chinese laborers from the United States, but not intended to exclude other classes. ^{made} Laws have been passed and several amendments by Congress, apparently under the inspiration of some hostile action, which have gone far beyond the intention of this treaty. Under the operation of these laws of exclusion, many ~~merchants~~ ^{teachers, students, travellers & their sons} have been treated with hostility and insult and have been deported from one cause and another. Large numbers of men have been siezed and imprisoned upon suspicion that they had come into the United States or were residing in the United States without proper certificates of registration and residence. Their business has been interfered with and broken up by long detentions. They have been obliged to submit

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to incarceration and detention in prison for months simply on suspicion, and ^{then} obliged to prove themselves innocent of some supposed offense. The hardships and cruelties perpetrated upon these ^{individuals} ~~men~~, the most of whom are quiet, peacable, industrious, hard-working men, show what may be done under the cover of law, something which is wholly unamerican and revolutionary in its character. When I was in San Francisco about two months ago, a Chinaman whom I had known for twenty years as a Christian man and a gentleman, said to me, "General Howard, the exclusion laws will expire this spring. Couldn't you do something to help us Chinese obtain friendly legislation for the future? We do not ask much, but we do want to be treated like men, and with humanity." He said this with trembling lips and pointed out to me the cruelties and hardships to which many Chinamen were subjected wholly without cause. He did not believe that the Christian people of the country realized what was being done under the pretense of legal exaction. I saw many other Chinamen, mostly those who are members of our churches and Sunday schools, while in San Francisco. I saw others whom I had known better and longer in Portland, Ore. Those who had families; who dress as we dress and live as we live and are upright and Christian in their every-day life. The same question was asked me again and again, "General Howard, can't you do something for our people?" I conversed with prominent citizens ^{of both the great parties of the Nation} who assured me that the cry against the Chinese on the Pacific coast and elsewhere was all wrong. As a rule they are, as servants, neat in their habits, quite in their demeanor and industrious to the last degree. Wherever they work they work well.

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Poles, the Italians, the Japanese or the Malays generally. There are vices that we abominate; and we would, if we could, exclude them. They are found in the dives ^{and criminal resorts} of New York and San Francisco and they are not confined to the Chinese people. I would like to abolish over-crowded tenement houses, where, for the sake of profit unscrupulous landlords rent spaces on the floor to poor victims who can get nowhere else a shelter ^{and crowd every story.} for the night. A well regulated city can easily prevent such monstrosities as are described and retailed to excite prejudice and hostility against the Chinese quarter.

If the time has come already when there is not room enough in our extended domain, including the vast areas unredeemed from the Missouri River to the Pacific Coast, including also Alaska, Porto Rico and the Philippines, then let us make laws restricting immigration.

We already have ^{some such laws} ~~them~~ but they can be extended in an impartial way to prevent all human importations in groups and gangs under contract ^{gathered from} ~~of~~ any foreign people whatever. The importation of paupers, anarchists who wish to destroy all society, people ^{examined} ~~inflicted~~ with contagious diseases, ^{reasonably interpreted} ~~or~~ besotted men and women who are promoters of vice and vicious indulgence, drunkards made so by liquors, opium, or other poisonous drugs; these and such dreadful ab-

normal beings of course we need not import. ^{no conscience} No nation can blame us for keeping them out. We can go even further ^{an impartial} in exclusion; but

^{now} is it wise? Is it best? Is it humane? Is it what the Great Father of us all would have us do? ~~At~~ At any rate we cannot afford to pick out an honest, upright, straightforward, clean-minded, hard-working individual and exclude him because he comes from Sweden, from Poland, from Austria, from Italy, from Japan, from India or from China.

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tial. Every industrial interest in this country demands it. Every commercial interest on our coasts demands it. The Philippine Islands just developing demand it; and surely every spiritual and educational interest requires it.

You may ask me what the young men have to do with such a subject? I answer that if a link is weak the chain is weak. *our young men are the strength of the nation* A young man's attitude should be that of impartial justice towards his fellows. He that shows no mercy will have no mercy. *He who sows the seed* So with a nation. The nation that shows no mercy, by and by, will get no mercy. The nation that enacts unjust and oppressive laws will one day pay for it dearly in precious blood and treasure. Every young man has some influence. In God's universe the small things, even the things that are unseen are often the most tremendous in their consequences. *at this period of our history* If we are now friendly to China she will reciprocate it with interest. When the cruel Boxers undertook to execute their exclusion law, all civilized nations rebelled against it and combined to check their onslaughts. More than forty thousand Christian Chinese gave their lives rather than surrender their faith in our Great Master. The tide is now setting toward us and there is no good reason to doubt that in a few years all the sincere and worthy followers of the noble precepts of Confucius may advance a step further and adopt the crowning faith and love and positive action of our Great Redeemer.

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