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EDITORIAL

BARKING AT THE MOON.

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THE latest subject to which Bishop Potter has turned his versatile mind is the subject of immigration. On this subject the illustrious gentleman—he is considered illustrious by the ruling class on whose pulpit, drum ecclesiastic, and in whose forum, the Civic Federation, he regularly beats his tattoo—has just uttered himself as follows, namely, to wit:

“Self-preservation, we are wont to say, is the first law of nature. The American Republic exists for the illustration and propagation and the maintenance of certain ideals of civic government and of personal freedom. The invasion of a race which would destroy these would be a sufficient ground for resisting such invasion and excluding the invader, and no less would this be true of moral standards. The basis of high political ideals is a moral basis. The Nation rests upon the cornerstone of the eternal righteousness, and a race which by its moral or religious standards would assault these would strike at the foundations of the Republic. Therefore, some restriction of immigration has in it the essential quality of equity.”

What once were racial sentiments now are generally class-rule sentiments. Fears once entertained by a ruling race, now that races have been obliterated among rulers and class instincts have taken among them the place of race instincts, are now reappearing as class fears that make the rulers shiver. What this interesting phenomenon means, and what is in store for the class with whom it now rises will appear from a consideration of the identical phenomenon in previous ages, when it rose in the breasts of ruling races. Two extremely opposite instances—Roman and Indian—will illustrate the point.

The Roman race once mastered the world. They invaded; they were not invaded. This lasted so long that they took it to be a law of Nature. Presently the horizon grew black with the dust raised by the approaching barbarians. “Self-

preservation” thereupon became the Roman watch-word. The “maintenance of freedom” was pronounced the mission of the Roman alleged Republic. The immigration of races which would threaten the alleged mission was officially declared to be ample reason for resisting the invasion. Some few clearheaded Romans like Tacitus wrote works holding up the “barbarians” as musters for the imitation of the Roman masters. But the words of the Tacituses fell upon deaf ears, and resistance was set on foot. Thousands of “barbarians” were slaughtered on their way to Rome. But many more took the places of the fallen, and the ruling Roman race was swamped.

It was similarly with the Indian. The invasion of the “pale-face” aroused the former’s racial animosity. He felt its danger to his rule. Sachems arose without number who sought to lash their race’s ire in order to make head against an invasion that threatened the cornerstone of (their) “eternal righteousness.” Thousands of the invaders were scalped; many more took the places of these, and the one-time rulers of American soil were rolled over, overcome and swamped by the invader.

The unwritten law of human development has no respect for the bouquets that a ruling race may shower upon itself. In the course of time a quality needed by civilization and absent from the Roman or from the Indian, was present and latent in the invader. However superior in other respects the invaded race may have been, the evolution of society required the latter’s downfall; and down they went. The quality that the Genius of the Time considered essential for the moment and found latent in the invader had free play; and progress was secured.

As dominant “class” now takes the place of dominant “race,” the change is found in the invader as well. Subject “class” is the modern translation for the one-time term and idea of subject “race.” What turned out true with respect to the one-time subject “races” that migrated and invaded dominant “races,” and supplanted and abolished them, is about to be repeated by the subject “class” that is migrating into and invading the territory ruled by the dominant class in America. The invading subject class is a Working Class, the resisting dominant class is the Capitalist Class of this age. The fears of the Bishop Potters are well founded, and vain are their hopes. If in the period of race immigrations the dominant race in the invaded

country could offer no successful resistance, what prospect of success can there be for the Bishop Potters when the immigration has become a class immigration, consequently, an invasion in which the invaders find allies ready at hand in the invaded country?

The Bishop Potters are barking at the moon; their class, the Capitalist Class of America, is doomed. But they need not fear that therefore aught that the Capitalist Class has contributed towards Civilization will be engulfed with themselves. No real conquest of man towards Civilization ever is lost. Society never suffers shipwreck. As with the "barbarians" who immigrated into Rome and took and held possession, so will it be with the subject class that is immigrating to America and that, jointly with their allies, the American wage slave will overthrow the dominant class, and take and hold possession here. The latter, as the former in their day, have the latent quality that Civilization now stands in need of; as the former did when it absorbed whatever was valuable to Civilization in dominant Rome, so will the latter absorb and save whatever deserves saving in capitalist society, and, blending that with their own specific virtue, save Civilization from pending collapse and carry it forward.

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