

## IMMIGRATION.

W.J.Allen, writing from Brooklyn, wants to know whether I am in favor of restricting immigration. As to Mongolians, or any other races that cannot readily assimilate with our people, my answer is, yes. As to the European peoples, no.

Under present conditions, at least, there are grave reasons for refusing to admit immigrants who, perpetuating marked distinctions which would constitute them an insoluble element in our population, would give rise to difficulties and dangers such as are threatened by the Chinese question in the Pacific states and by the race question in the south. But these reasons for exclusion do not apply to European immigrants, even when of different tongues from our own. Unless isolated in separate communities, these immigrants quickly learn our language and adopt our customs, and their children at least become indistinguishable from the rest of our population.

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There is room enough here for all who are coming or are likely to come to us from Europe, and if our unused natural opportunities were only open to those willing to use them, these immigrants would not only be able to find employment without displacing any one already here, but for the same reason that two men working together can produce more than twice as much as one man, their addition to our population ought to render it possible for us all to get a better living. If it seems that there are too many people already here; if it seems that new comers must swell the ranks of those who cannot

find employment, and increase the intensity of that competition of mere laborer with mere laborer, which in all occupations produces its effect on those already here, and would continue to affect them if immigration were to cease - in our giving to some men the absolute ownership and control of the natural element on which and from which all must live. The restriction of immigration would do nothing to right this fundamental wrong. Its agitation would have but the effect ( and, in large part, this is the conscious intention of those who advocate it) of diverting the popular mind from the only path by which the emancipation of labor can be reached..

Signed: Henry George.  
May 12, 1888.