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THE INCOMING FLOOD OF ALIENS

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[*Inter-denominational*]

# The Incoming Millions

BY  
HOWARD B. GROSE

“The stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself.”



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TO THE  
CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF AMERICA,  
WHOSE MISSION IT IS TO HELP SAVE  
OUR COUNTRY BY EVANGELIZING THE ALIEN WOMEN  
AND TEACHING THEM THE IDEALS OF  
THE AMERICAN HOME

## NOTE

THE author wishes to acknowledge his special obligations to his son, Howard Bristol Grose, whose valued collaboration has made the production of this volume possible.

## PREFACE

A MINISTER from a western city, on the return voyage from Europe, was sitting one morning on the deck with a company of friends. As the bells sounded for eleven o'clock, a cultured lady of the party rose and excused herself on the ground of an engagement. He noted that she passed down to the steerage deck, and his curiosity was aroused. The next day, at the same hour, she left the company with the same excuse, and was not seen again until dinner time. This became a daily occurrence, until the last day of the voyage, which had been prolonged by head winds. When the bells struck, the lady did not leave, and there was a look of sadness on her face. He ventured to ask what the strange engagement was that had called her away so regularly, and she told him her story.

Watching the steerage passengers as they boarded the steamship, the lady saw an aged woman, evidently an invalid, brought on board in a wheel chair. Something in the sweet and patient face attracted her, and as she thought of the many lonely hours the invalid would probably pass in the trying conditions of the steerage, she resolved to go down and see if she could be of

service, perhaps by reading a little while each day. She found that the invalid was an Italian and knew no English; she was alone, on her way to join her sons in America, who had sent for her. The lady knew very little Italian, but made up her mind to learn at least enough to speak some words of comfort and sympathy. She managed to find an Italian Testament and a lesson book, and began her studies. The next day the invalid's face beamed with delight as she heard herself saluted in Italian, and a new bond of sympathy was at once established. Then there began an exchange of languages, each acting as teacher and pupil. The lady read a verse in the Italian Testament, then in the English, and soon taught the Italian to repeat the verse, "For God so loved the world." Each day the lessons continued, with ever growing interest to both. Suddenly the invalid grew worse, and in a few hours she passed away. Her body was buried at sea, and the lady was the only first-class passenger who knew of the circumstance. But, as she told the minister, she had the unspeakable satisfaction of having been able, in those few days, not only to cheer the heart of a lonely woman, but to learn enough Italian to make known to her the love of Jesus; and she saw her die with firm faith in him as her Saviour. It was, said the lady, the most beautiful and blessed experience of her life.

"That," said the minister, "was the example of unselfish Christian service that put me to shame."

What thought had I given to the immigrants packed in the steerage? This woman had been a ministering angel, and had led a soul to life, while the rest of us had followed only our own pleasure."

If the alien women among the incoming millions are evangelized, it will be done by American women who are filled with this Christlike spirit of personal service.

HOWARD B. GROSE.

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, N. Y.,  
*September, 1906.*

## FROM THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

FOR this, the fourth volume of the Inter-denominational series of Home Mission text-books, the Committee in charge expects a welcome even beyond that given to preceding issues. The theme that it presents, one of vital importance to every American citizen, is of intense interest to Home Missionary women, whether or not the society with which they are connected is engaged in definite immigrant work. More and more it is becoming evident that we must "save America to save the world."

The Committee takes special pleasure in introducing the author of this book—Rev. Howard B. Grose, the Editorial Secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society—to the large constituency of Home Mission workers that it represents. The value of the work done by Mr. Grose needs no commendation from us. It speaks for itself.

With other and admirable text-books prepared for the young people and the children, surely the Christian thought of the nation may be focussed upon the problems of immigration. If these thoughts are followed by commensurate effort, personal and public, private and official, to "cast up a highway for our King," we can ask no more.

seaport landing in the United States; the final destination, if any, beyond the port of landing; whether having a ticket through to such final destination; whether the alien has paid his own passage or whether it has been paid by any other person or by any corporation, society, municipality, or government, and if so, by whom; whether in possession of thirty dollars, and if less, how much; whether going to join a relative or friend, and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address; whether ever before in the United States, and if so, when and where; whether ever in prison or almshouse or an institution or hospital for the care and treatment of the insane or supported by charity; whether a polygamist; whether an anarchist; whether coming by reason of any offer, solicitation, promise, or agreement, expressed or implied, to perform labor in the United States, and what is the alien's condition of health, mental and physical, and whether deformed or crippled, and if so, for how long and from what cause.

The inspector has this manifest when the immigrant comes before him, and compares the answers given to his questions with those on the paper. Wide discrepancies would cause special examination.

#### THE CHINESE EXCLUSION LAW

In our immigration laws we have made one discrimination, which is un-American and unjust. The laws should be uniform. The right to shut out the Chinese coolies is not questioned; but if these be debarred, why not debar the illiterate and unskilled laboring class that comes from Ireland, Italy, and Austria-Hungary? The Chinese certainly can fill a place in our industries which the other races do not fill equally well. Their presence in the kitchen would tend to alleviate domestic conditions that are responsible in large

measure for the breaking up of American home life. It is a ludicrous error to suppose that all the Chinese who come to America are laundrymen at home. Let Mrs. L. S. Baldwin, a returned missionary who labored in China eighteen years and knows the people she pleads for, bear her witness :

“The Chinese are exactly the same class as the immigrants from other lands. The needy poor, with few exceptions, must ever be the immigrant class. Those who come to us across the Pacific are largely from the respectable farming class, who fall into laundry work, shoemaking, etc., because these branches of industry are chiefly open to them. I have no fear of the Chinese immigrants suffering in comparison with those who come across the Atlantic. It is not the Chinaman who is too lazy to work, and goes to the almshouse or jail. It is not he who reels through our streets, defies our Sabbath laws, deluges our country with beer, and opposes all work for temperance and the salvation of our sons from the liquor curse. It is not the man from across the Pacific who commits the fearful crimes, and who is longing to put his hand to our political wheel and rule the United States. There are no healthier immigrants coming to this country. It is with difficulty, and only under pressure of necessity they are induced to leave China, so that the bugbear of millions of coolies overrunning America is absurd.”

## THE RIGHT TO LEGISLATE

One point should be kept clear, that Americans have sacred rights, civil and religious, with which aliens should not be permitted to interfere; and that these rights include all proper and necessary legislation for the preservation of the liberties, laws, institutions, and principles established by the founders of the Republic, together with those rights of citizenship guaranteed under the constitution. If restriction of immigration becomes necessary in order to safeguard America, the American people have a clear right to pass restrictive or even prohibitory laws. In other words, America does not belong equally to everybody. The American has rights which the alien must become American to acquire.—*From Aliens or Americans?*

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III

## LOCAL ITALIANS PROSPERING

To indicate how the Italians are gaining place everywhere, the author chanced recently to pick up a local paper at a hotel in Saratoga Springs, and his eye fell upon this news from the village of Mechanicville, in Saratoga County. The item tells a story of Americanization:

“John Fehily has sold his residence on Warsaw avenue to Victor Anziano for \$1,250. The property on

Warsaw avenue is now owned almost wholly by Italians and several new buildings have been erected there this season. The Wilbur houses on Warsaw avenue are all occupied by Italians, and a number of real estate transfers have been made. More are said to be pending of property on Saratoga avenue, west of Viall avenue. John Salvatore recently purchased a house and lot of Hugh Smith on that street.

"Mechanicville seems to have been particularly fortunate in its Italian population. As a class they are industrious and saving. The tax books have more Italian names every year, which proves they are acquiring property. Besides, they send thousands of dollars to Italy to relatives every month."

#### ANOTHER PICTURE

On the reverse side, the author knows that near another beautiful village in the same county there is an Italian colony of the worst class, composed of Sicilians who live according to the lowest standards. The men simply herd together, and they not only fight among themselves, but they are insulting to American women, and have kept the people in a state of terrorization. It is not safe for women and children to be out alone at night—or by day, either, for that matter—in the vicinity of this colony, and the police authorities have proved unable to cope with the situation. It is intolerable to have America made unsafe for Americans to live in by men who are brought in, most of them, under contract in violation of law, kept here simply because they work for low wages, and then permitted to have things their own way.

words of the late Dr. Howard Crosby: "Our city can only be evangelized when every Christian citizen becomes an evangelist." For "our city" substitute your city, town, or village, and the words will hold as true.

Home and foreign missions are inseparably interlinked. A Chinese missionary in New York, Fung Yuet Mow, says that at a missionary conference which he attended in Canton, China, there were fifty missionaries present, native Chinese, and half of them were converted in our missions in America, and returned home to seek the conversion of their people. Everywhere he met the influence of Chinese who found Christ in this country. Every foreigner converted in America becomes a missionary influence abroad.

### BIBLE READINGS

(To accompany chapters as numbered)

#### I

A Refuge for the Nations. Isa. 25: 4-9; 49: 8-12.

#### II

The Land of Hope. Deut. 11: 10-12.

The Conditions of Inheritance. Deut. 11: 18-21;  
26-28.

#### III

Newcomers in a New Home. Psalms 107: 23-43.

#### IV

The Source of Blessings. Psalms 65: 5-13.

V

The Citizenship of the "New Earth." Rev. 21:  
24-27; 22: 14.

VI

"Who Is My Neighbor?" Luke 10: 25-37.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

I

1. Tell the story related in the preface.
2. Describe the work of the officials at Ellis Island.
3. Describe the Immigrant's progress through the Immigrant station.
4. What radical changes in Immigration are taking place?
5. What lessons have those changes for us?
6. State the principal reasons for Immigration.

II

1. What classes of Immigrants are excluded by law?
2. What difficulties do inspectors find in enforcing these laws?
3. How and where are Immigrants smuggled into the country?
4. What becomes of those excluded?
5. How does the matter of distribution affect Immigrant Problems?
6. What special interest has the South in these questions?