

NOT CRIMINALS.

Chinese Demand Repeal of Geary Act.

Tremont Temple the Scene of a Mass Meeting.

Wong Chin Foo and Sam Ping Lee Speak.

Dr. Miner and William Lloyd Garrison Protest.

Petitions to be Circulated Among the People.

"What crime has the Chinaman committed that he should be so despised, that he should be cast into prison, that he should be marked and tagged and photographed like a convict?" was the question asked last night in Tremont Temple.

Under the auspices of the Chinese Equal Rights League a mass meeting was held in that great hall, and though the bad weather kept the attendance down there was earnestness and enthusiasm.

A large part of the audience was made up of Chinamen, and a body of Chinese merchants sat on the platform.

Rev. Dr. A. A. Miner presided, and in opening the meeting told what the Chinese registration bill, better known as the Geary act, is.

"What has color to do with justice?" he asked.

"How is justice defended when a man who came here 20 years ago, who has forgotten the name of the ship in which he came, who cannot remember the day he landed, must furnish such a certificate as I have spoken of?"

"What is the cause of this oppression of the Chinese race, the only one of all the races of the earth which is forbidden to land here? Why are these people, peaceful and industrious, driven from our land which opens wide its arms to every other nation? It is because a sand-lot orator, who shall be nameless on this platform tonight, demanded it."

Dr. Miner read an extract from Senator Sherman's speech in opposition to the Geary act, with various comments.

"It is proposed to ticket and tag over 100,000 men, like a lot of slaves and chattels, and these men must never forget or lose their tickets and tags, or they will be instantly liable to arrest, imprisonment and deportation from the country."

Mr. Sam Ping Lee, a prominent Chinese merchant of Philadelphia, and president of the Chinese Equal Rights League, was the first speaker introduced.

He is a more than ordinarily handsome Chinaman; small, slight, straight and darker than the majority of his race familiar to Boston. He speaks excellent English, his accent is so slight that every word is clear, and he pronounces "his" "hees." He has much difficulty in sounding "sh," as in "shall," which he pronounces "sall." He spoke with some hesitation, but was very warmly received, and his speech was eloquent.

He said: "Allow me to call your attention to the fact that we are not here to uphold Chinese immigration, but we are here to protest against the brand new slavery system, better known as the inhuman Geary Chinese registration act."

"Such an unjust and cruel law is a disgrace to the civilized world. Would you for one moment allow your sacred Constitution and Declaration of Independence to be trodden down?"

"But according to this monstrous Geary act the declaration that all men were created equal is reversed, and the Golden Rule should be set aside."

"If you are not going to abolish that cruel Chinese registration act, the new slavery system will be in operation on the 6th day of May, 1893. And every Chinaman in the United States will be arrested and sent to the penitentiaries to work for the State for one year or less, because they were born on Chinese soil."

"Any one can readily see that this discrimination is made for a purpose against the Chinese from all the nations of the world."

"This is the first attempt of the Chinese to defend themselves against cruel outrages in any country. The superlative brain and eloquence of our opponents render it necessary for us to seek able assistance outside of our own circles."

"We are glad to find that the great people of Boston have taken an active interest in our cause. When Boston takes an active interest in any movement it goes. It goes not merely in Boston or Massachusetts, but through the entire nation."

"We earnestly hope you will not give up the ship until you have won liberty for us as you won it for the negroes."

Mr. Wong Chin Foo, secretary of the Chinese Equal Rights League, was next introduced.

He is well known as a journalist of considerable experience in New York city and as a keen, observant citizen, for he has been naturalized, and he burns under what he believes to be a measure of oppression.

He speaks clearly, rapidly and well, and his English is as good as that of any American college graduate.

He is a fine looking man, looks prosperous, wore a Prince Albert coat, striped trousers, is clean shaven, and has his hair cut and combed like that of any other Christian.

He said: "Thank God there is one spot in this great republic where its people are brave enough to stand up for principle and for oppressed humanity."

"Once more it is the fellow-citizens of the noble Sumner, the illustrious and immortal Garrison, to be in front."

"Whenever the honor of the nation is at stake, or the cause of human liberty is involved, the noble sons of Massachusetts can always be depended upon to defend them."

"We have come before you this evening, ladies and gentlemen, not to advocate Chinese immigration. Nay, we have nothing to do with the Chinese in general. We are here to stand up for the 150,000 Chinese residents of the United States whose liberties are threatened, whose rights over their own lawful homes are to be taken away by tyrants imported upon American soil."

"A hundred and fifty thousand human beings, innocent of any crime, will be forcibly taken from their happy homes and placed behind prison bars, simply because they were born in China."

"On the 6th of May next 150,000 law-abiding and industrious citizens and residents of the United States will be made State criminals, and every one of them will have his picture taken for the national rogues' gallery."

"The families that they have reared with care, the homes that they have built by long and weary years of toil will be scattered to the four winds, and by one single blast of the cruel Geary California act every honest man of the mighty 150,000 will be made a pauper, a thousand times worse than paupers. They will become raging maniacs if this act is carried out."

"They will be shipped like cattle out of their beloved homes and from the country which they have been taught to love as their own and dumped upon a foreign shore without friends, families or means of support."

"But all this can be remedied, so say our affected friends, 'by obeying the law.'"

"What do you call laws?"

"To enact them for individual conveniences, for the torture of defenceless men, and for party and not public interests to degrade national integrity and honor to the level of low individual insignificance."

"Do you call such things laws?"

"Show me any race of men who are more willing to obey the law than the Chinese."

"But they must have good and reasonable laws, and laws which have the dignity of laws."

"This monstrous new act of California, which was quietly forced upon the entire nation by shrewd and unprincipled politicians astonished us."

"It more than astonished us, because we had no reason to expect it from so high a source. So great a nation, had such a cruel measure been established by either Russia, India or even China, we would not have felt so deeply, but a measure too cruel, too inhuman to be practiced by the most barbarous people on earth. Was so willingly



SAM PING LEE. WONG CHIN FOO.

and hastily adopted by the American Congress, and signed by a Christian president, in the United States, the land of liberty and home of the oppressed of all nations.

"Does it not and ought it not to discourage the most courageous heathen on earth? The same powers that are trying to make us the degraded slaves of America are now trying slowly but surely to be masters of this great republic. They have already swallowed the great city of New York and nearly the entire State."

"The same power that is kicking against Chinese wickedness fills our jails and penitentiaries with its devotees."

"Here is a part of a list of the Chinese criminals which I had the honor to look at in a New Jersey jail 'diary' some months ago: Mr. Ah Dick O'Brien, Mr. Ah Patrick Murphy, Mr. Ah Daw Lyons, murderers; Ah Dennis O'Callahan, Ah Patrick O'Reilly, Ah Jeremiah Croker, ballot stuffers."

"I can give you hundreds of more such bad Chinese who were careless enough to get their names into Uncle Sam's free boarding-houses."

"I have a good many very warm friends among the Irish Catholics. There are great men and noble souls among them as among all other races, but I blame these good ones for not checking the career of their bad brethren around them."

"I give them the credit for having so much intellectual as well as physical powers over the balance of

The Intellectual Giants
of this great republic to be able to make laws to suit themselves.

"They have done it now. They have spent the nation's time and money to down a more handful of defenceless Chinaman."

"The noble and respectable Senator Sherman and Representative Hill, the only two great men among the entire army of the nation's law makers who were brave enough to stand up for their country's honor, were overwhelmed by the nation's enemies."

"No sons of liberty of Massachusetts, are you ready today to rise up in their support, to rise up in your might in the support of the glorious constitution for which the illustrious Washington and his fellow patriots crossed the icy Delaware, with bleeding feet, to stand up and defend those glorious stars and stripes which are consecrated by the precious blood of the heroes of Bunker Hill?"

"That all men may be equal upon the soil of this glorious republic, that we may walk upon your streets without cost, that we may breathe the free air of God, without it being a crime, that there may be no cast established within this republic, and no form of slavery ever to degrade the statute books of this nation."

"When this monstrous bill is repealed, when the only blot upon the face of Western civilization is removed, the honor and integrity of the nation will be saved, and the glorious star-spangled banner will once more flutter proudly above the nations of the earth as the only great and glorious republic on God's footstool."

Mr. William Lloyd Garrison made an eloquent appeal for the rights of the Chinese, and his words were frequently interrupted with applause and hearty commendation. He said:

"Twenty-seven years have passed since the great war fought for the rights of a despised race was ended."

"The principles vindicated embraced all humanity."

"It seems an anachronism to be holding a public meeting in Boston, in 1892, to take measures for the protection of another persecuted and abused people within our gates."

"Only the question of color has changed. In Massachusetts the black man no longer needs to be defended, but the yellow man from the ancient nation of arts and civilization is crouching in our midst in fear of Christian blows."

"The State has reason to hang her head in humiliation today. Six of her twelve representatives in Congress today stand sponsors for the infamy of the Geary act."

"If, in the unthinking heat of political issues, they forget the dictates of humanity, let them rejoice that there is yet time for atonement before the expiration of their term of service. But the time is short and the need for action pressing."

"The attitude of the victims is one of supplication."

"They ask, and with good reason, why, of all the races that make up this conglomerate nation, they should be singled out for vengeance? Are they degraded, drunken, idle, law defying? Whatever class of people there may be which fits this description, not one of these objections can truthfully be urged against the Chinese in the United States."

"The single reason for selecting them to outrage is their inability to defend themselves."

"A disfranchised class is a helpless one. In the game of politics, where prejudices

are potent in controlling votes, there is no safety for citizens without the ballot. They are safe game."

"The league which calls this meeting, with a moderation hardly to be commended, does not ask that the law regarding immigration be altered."

"It only prays that the Chinese workers already here may not be listed and labelled, photographed like criminals for the rogues' gallery, denied the right of habeas corpus, forced to produce white witnesses—a sheer impossibility—and that they may not be presumed guilty and made to prove their innocence, in contravention of accepted jurisprudence and civilized usage."

"They remind us that, as a Christian nation, we profess to believe in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and plead that they are human beings. They wonder at our societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals, and our national indifference to the sufferings of fellow creatures when our religion declares a man made in the image of the Creator."

"As a citizen of a State noble in the annals of freedom, I cannot escape a blush at such base acquiescence in this cruel shame. The memory of Vane and Otis and the Adamses of Sumner and Andrew and Phillips, who walked these streets and left as a legacy to their descendants an imperishable love of liberty, forbids us to be silent in the presence of such disgrace."

"The infamy must be erased."

"This is no question of a single race or color. Yesterday it was the negro, today it is the Chinaman, tomorrow it may be the white American."

"We but teach bloody instructions, which, being taught, return to plague the inventor; this even-handed justice commends the ingredients of our poisoned chalice to our own life."

"It is no excuse to point to the same disregard of human obligations in barbarous nations abroad. The tragedy of Europe at this moment centres in the figure of the Russian Jew, exceeding in pathos Eugene Sue's imaginative Wanderer, for he had the freedom of the earth at least over which to mark his never-ending track."

"We are shocked at Russia's inhumanity, while we imitate her example. And yet we send missionaries to the heathen."

A Modest and Modified Request
that the Equal Rights League prefers.

They petition that their countrymen having, in a majority of cases, come to this land of liberty through the urgent request of American citizens and corporations, for honest service in building the transcontinental railways and making to blossom the waste places of the Pacific coast, may be spared the treatment of dogs."

"Were I a Chinaman, my claim for equality should stop at no such narrow limits. I would demand nothing short of the rights and privileges due a citizen of the world, and I would scold as immoral the claim of any portion of mankind to exclude me from an equal opportunity in the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness."

"The golden rule came from the lips of Confucius before the advent of the founder of Christianity, and, notwithstanding our Chinese legislation, we shall continue to read in public the Declaration of Independence on the Fourth of July. It is time to make our conduct square with our professions."

"I plead with the representatives of Massachusetts for a reversal of their action. I would remind Mr. O'Neil that, not long ago, in this commonwealth, it was the race from which he is sprung that gathered to mark his never-ending track."

"The broad street riot was a disgrace to Boston, and membership in the Know-nothing party has ceased to be a subject of pleasant retrospect."

"Mr. Williams has performed loyal service for the State in his brief term and has urged upon us in his recent campaign speeches the duty of following principle, regardless of consequences. Will he not, remembering his lapse from the excellent rule he inculcates, retrieve his record on the Geary bill?"

"I cannot think that so humane a man as Mr. Stevens, views without concern the terror his unthinking action has helped to create. I beg him to open the noble work on China of his friend and neighbor, Samuel Johnson, and read that glowing chapter on the treatment of the Chinese in the United States. Its perusal cannot fail to make him eager to undo his work."

"Mr. Crosby has placed himself in the same column. He rejoices in the name of Democrat, but, unless Democracy means that might makes right, and that the weaker must be pushed to the wall by the more powerful, he has dickered the name. I trust he also will take a fresh view of the situation and reconstruct his definition of Democracy."

"Mr. Randall represents a community, which, in the days of slavery, was proud to harbor fugitives from the South. The underground railroad had a bus station at New Bedford. It is a memory that the city cherishes. Will it be proud of its representative's vote that proscribed another un-

fortunate race? I ask Mr. Randall to put himself in the Chinaman's place and look at the question from that standpoint."

"And Mr. Walker represents the heart of the Commonwealth, where the cry of outraged freedom never failed to find a quick response. Let not Worcester county stand sponsor for this hoodlum legislation. The Gray Eagle should leave such quarry to the vulture. It is much better to continue to be

The Bird of Freedom.
"But, fellow-citizens, whether our offending representatives, seeing the error of their way, bring forth fruits meet for repentance or not, a certain duty rests upon us. It is to protect and defend the helpless people whose safety is imperilled, and to see to it that the honor and good name of Massachusetts are upheld. We once defied the mandate of South Carolina, and shall we at this later day obey the low behest of California?"

"If we do our duty before the appointed month of May is here the Chinese residents among us may rest secure in their unalienable rights, and we say of the dear Commonwealth.

Once more thy strong maternal arms
Are round about thy children flung,—
A lioness that guards her young.

"I have been asked," said Mr. Garrison, "to offer these resolutions to the meeting, and I hope there will not be an honest dissenting voice in the assemblage when they are voted upon."

He then read the following resolutions, which were adopted by a rising vote and without one dissenter, as Mr. Garrison had hoped:

The citizens of Boston, in public meeting assembled, renew their protest against the recent passage by Congress of the Chinese registration act, known as the Geary bill, under which every Chinese resident of the United States is required on and after the 6th of May, 1893, to possess a certificate that he has been 10 years resident in this country.

The conditions attached to this requirement are infamous and degrading, humiliating to the victim and a disgrace to the nation imposing them. Since the fugitive slave law no such atrocious enactment has stained the statute books of this country. As Senator Sherman has declared, it violates all humane instincts and disregards our plain treaty obligations with China.

The innocent and law-abiding victims who are designated for this persecution await the sober-second thought of the American Congress. The bill was hurried through by reason of a supposed party exigency, with no popular demand behind it.

It cannot be possible that a people professing to be Christian can justify such legislation. The time has arrived for a dispassionate consideration of the matter. The registration clauses should be immediately and unconditionally repealed.

We call upon the present Massachusetts members of Congress to undo, at the coming session, the wrong for which a part of them are responsible, and to use their utmost efforts to secure the modification of the law and the expunging of its needless and ungeniously cruel registration features. This they owe, as a matter of justice and mercy, to the peaceful, industrious and law-abiding people who have made their home amongst us, and to the fair fame of the State, which has suffered at the hands of its agents.

"I have received a large number of letters," said Mr. Garrison, "heartily indorsing this movement and offering the most liberal encouragement. I can only look on these as being a hopeful sign, and I know that the prominence of the men and their well-known attitude in defence of the oppressed will be pleasing to all friends of this cause."

He read letters from Bishop Brooks, Rev. Dr. Lorimer, Rev. John Cuckson, Prof. Thayer and Prof. Goodwin of Harvard, William Endicott, Jr., Dr. F. Peabody of Harvard, Robert Treat Paine and Rev. Dr. Griffin.

It had been proposed, said the chairman, to appoint a committee of citizens to circulate and secure signatures to petitions for the repeal of the Geary act, and by vote of the meeting these gentlemen were appointed: George S. Hajo, Robert Treat Paine, Rev. Charles F. Dole, Rev. William Griffin, Rev. A. A. Banks, Archibald W. Howe and William Lloyd Garrison.

Rev. Louis A. Banks was introduced to add a word to what had already been said on this subject.

"I have very intense and earnest conviction on this question," he said.

"I was born in Oregon and was on the Pacific coast many years. I was there when the first exclusion law was passed. I was there at the time of the Chinese riots, and served as a deputy marshal. I saw a Chinese woman stoned and struck until she was bleeding."

"Now it is a fact that the Chinese did not ask to come here. We went over to their country and asked them to let us in. They said no, that they had got along some 4000 years very comfortably, and they guessed they didn't want anything to do with us. But we wanted to traffic with them, and we made them many promises, and they finally let us in and we brought them here."

"I tell you one thing, if the Chinese had been worth as much to the gambling dens and the saloons as other people from foreign lands were, we should never have heard of such a mass of oppression. But the Chinese don't drink, and they have no votes to cast, and so they have been cast out."

Rev. George C. Lorimer dropped into the hall and was called to the platform, and he made an impassioned appeal for the immediate repeal of the Geary act.

James L. Cole arose and said that he was not willing to rest on the resolution offered and adopted by the gathering, and he moved that a resolution be adopted demanding the repeal of the Chinese exclusion act. The motion was seconded and adopted without a dissenting voice.

Mr. Cole then spoke at some length on his motion, and declared that the resolutions at Washington are but the servants of the people at home, and that they should obey orders better than they sometimes do. This meeting was an order from the people of Massachusetts to do their part in revealing the infamous Geary act, and he hoped that they would obey instructions.

Hagop Boghigian arose and said that in all the oppressive history of Turkey, the country of his nativity, there had never been put upon any of her people such abuse as the Chinese have known to this country.

Rev. Mr. Dole arose in his place in the centre of the hall and said a word of encouragement to the Chinese. Dr. Miner thanked the audience for its attention, and the meeting was ended.

While the speaking was in progress blank petitions had been circulated in the hall for signatures, and when these were collected after the meeting it was found that several hundred names had been added to the list of those who deem the Geary act wrongful.

Among the prominent men who have already signed a petition for the repeal of the act are these:

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| Rev. Almon J. Savage | Darwin E. Ware |
| Rev. William Elliot Grimes | Alexander H. Rice |
| Rev. George C. Lorimer | William G. Benedict |
| Rev. John Cuckson | James R. Carret |
| Rev. William Brooks | Rev. Charles E. Fay |
| Rev. Charles Follen Leo | George Ripley |
| William Endicott, Jr. | Rev. Samuel May |
| Edwin D. Mead | Rev. Fred B. Allen |
| Rev. Robert Macdonald | A. A. Burrage |
| Rev. Henry Poof Perkins | Amos W. Stetson |
| Rev. William Shaw | Samuel B. Hamphrey |
| Rev. H. Hayes | Samuel B. Capen |
| Rev. Charles F. Dole | Rev. Percy Browne |
| Rev. A. J. Gordon | Rev. C. A. Bartol |
| Rev. E. L. Huxford | George A. Dary |
| Rev. William G. Hancock | Robert Treat Paine |
| William H. Baldwin | Prof. J. H. Burdett |
| William H. Richards | Rev. A. F. Peabody |
| John Ritchie | Prof. W. W. Goodwin |