

IMMIGRATION.

The Current Event Club Tackles the Great Question.

The much discussed and important question of immigration was considered by the Current Event club at its meeting last night in the parlors of the First Congregational church. President T. H. Reynolds occupied the chair. The specific question debated was, "Should Immigration to the United States Be Restricted for One Year?"

Miss Mary Brackett opened for the affirmative. She contended that the majority of those who come to this country, especially those who locate in large cities, do not make good citizens. The danger of an invasion of cholera was a most potent reason why every precaution should be taken with regard to admitting immigrants, especially in view of the fact that \$20,000,000 had been spent on the World's fair at Chicago.

Miss E. E. Fox advocated the negative. She thought the country had no more to fear from the foreigner than had our forefathers. She was aware of the dangers that existed from immigration in great cities, but there were religious and other influences that could be brought to bear to make good citizens of all who came here. We needed the labor of the foreigner and his co-operation.

C. S. Palmer also espoused the negative. Cholera, he said, was doubtless the reason for seeking to restrict immigration at the present time, but with our modern sanitary knowledge there was no reason to fear an epidemic in any large city. He contended that most of those who came to this country were people of strength and industry whose labors tended to make lighter those of the American. The coming year, he believed, would see a better class of immigrants come here than ever before and he viewed the Chandler restriction bill now pending in congress as arbitrary, unjust and unnecessary.

congress as arbitrary, unjust and unnecessary.

Henry McTune closed the debate, speaking for the affirmative. He declared that Washington and Jefferson had both been opposed to immigration, and that to restrict it would work no violence to our traditions. Many were in favor of restriction or absolute prohibition, but there was no agreement as to legislation. Therefore let immigration be cut off for one year until everybody could get together and agree upon the proper course. In spite of a quarantine it was known that fifty cases of cholera existed in New York last fall. Prohibition of immigration was the only way to keep out the disease and it was favored by the best physicians in the country. It would not interfere with the World's fair, because the steerage passengers who would be kept away would not go there anyway. The speaker read statistics to show that during the past four years immigration from Spain, Italy, Portugal, Hungary and Russia, where the most undesirable and illiterate classes of people come from, had been increasing at a tremendous rate.

During the evening a humorous impersonation of a country debating society was given by J. H. Powell. A violin solo was rendered by James Moodie who was accompanied on the piano by Carl Stephnadist. A vote of those present decided the discussion in favor of the affirmative.

01-18-1893-KCTimes-p5-Immigration