

NO APPARENT IMPROVEMENT.

The law regulating immigration has made very little improvement in the general character of the classes brought to our shores. The intent of the law is plain that paupers and those who threaten to become public charges shall be excluded. It may be that an immigrant who has barely enough money to subsist upon for a single week may not be a pauper under a strict construction of the term, but within a meaning fully in keeping with the public sentiment that prompted the enactment of the law paupers are coming in by the thousands. In the report of the commissioner of immigration it is stated that upwards of 150,000 persons over the age of 20 years have entered the United States within the past six months. The average amount of money brought by each was but a few cents over \$20. The Germans were highest in the standard of thrift, and they were less likely than any other large class enumerated, perhaps, to become public charges. But there were thousands of Poles having but \$12.31 each; Austrians with but \$14.95; Hungarians with the miserable pittance of \$11.42, and Russians by the thousand who brought but a few cents each.

Nobody will say that the large majority of these last named, who come here ignorant of the language, customs and laws of the country, are even one degree removed from pauperism. They can live only by herding like animals in filth and crime, a menace to the peace of society and to the health of the au-

nities in which they congregate. To allow this accumulation of ignorance and destitution to continue is to invite a multiplication of the hardships under which the laboring masses of the country now chafe, for the first thing these newcomers do, in their desperation to sustain life, is to seek work at wages which will keep no human being with necessities greater than those of an animal. Another line should be drawn, and it should be put where it will afford some protection to the poor we now have with us.