

A STATEMENT FOR NON=EXCLUSION

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A Statement for Non=Exclusion by Patrick J. Healy & Ng Poon Chew

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PATRICK J. HEALY & NG POON CHEW

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FOR

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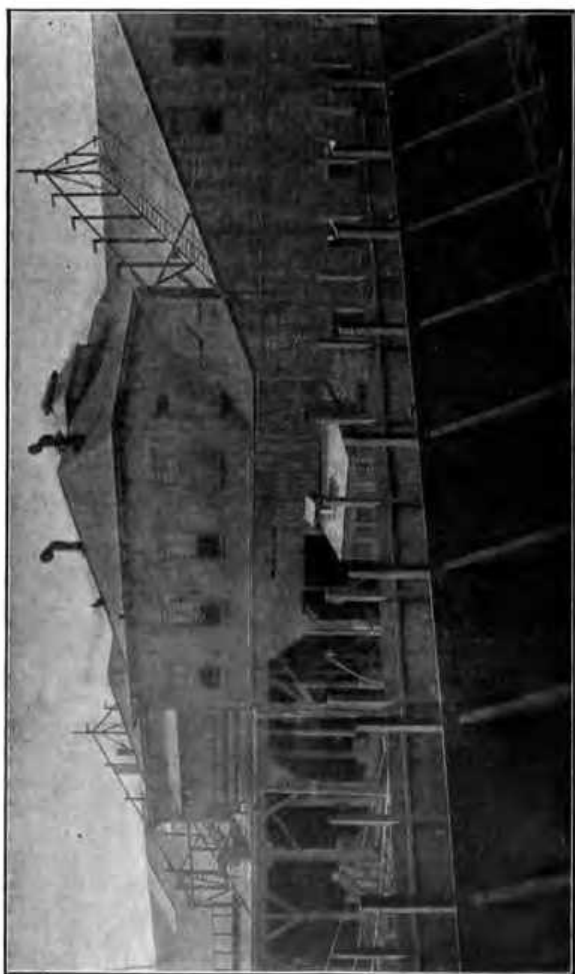
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PATRICK J. HEALY and NG POON CHEW



SAN FRANCISCO
November 1905

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CHINESE DETENTION SHED SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

INTRODUCTION

Why Did You Do So?

To give a satisfactory answer to this query is the burden of every foreword, prelude or preface that has been prefixed to books since the first writer conceived of this method of conciliating his readers. The question is legitimate. The reader should be informed at a glance, if possible, why he is called upon in this busy age to wade through another volume of printed matter.

This fragmentary and incomplete statement makes no pretension to literary workmanship. It is at best a compilation, and the reader will readily notice that the portions which are called, are by far the best in construction and the most forcible in argument. There is no excuse offered for giving the American people another argument, howsoever feeble it may be, for the preservation of constitutional liberty wherever our flag is unfurled and our jurisdiction recognized. It is impossible to preserve the integrity of a government like ours if we deny to any class in our community the equal protection of the laws. Therefore this statement is to demonstrate the necessity of returning to first principles, and to show that the justice which we mete out to others may in turn be administered to ourselves. This paper is called for at this time in the hope that it may dispel the crass ignorance which is alleged to prevail upon this subject, in the fens of New Jersey and in the mountain regions of New England, part of the territory, no doubt, which Mr. Gompers had in mind when he caused the following sentence to be printed:

"The pro-Chinese element in this country depends in a large measure upon the general ignorance that prevails east of the Rocky Mountains as to the merits or demerits of exclusion."

The general distribution of this paper may educate, and to some extent contribute even, to the enlightenment of the followers of Mr. Gompers. The candid and unprejudiced reader will find in these pages information of undoubted authenticity, such as few people believe exists.

The chapters that are devoted to the recital of outrages that were perpetrated upon our helpless "yellow brethren" during the early history of the State of California show a disgraceful condition of civilization, which, we pray, is haply passing away. The reader will find here a sketch of the present Anti-Asiatic exclusion crusade from its embryonic state, through its complete growth and development. It will be seen how we, the favored residents of this Pacific Coast, manufacture grievances to order; and how successful we have been heretofore in making the rest of our countrymen believe that we were suffering from the invasion of an insidious foe, which was constantly forcing his services upon us in spite of our most determined efforts to discourage him. No attempt is made to reply to the various specific charges that have been filed against the Chinese. The time was too short; and the statements made by the present day exclusionists are so unreasonable, so ill-digested and so contradictory, that they usually are answered by each other or are unworthy of serious consideration.

The charges of immorality and non-assimilation which are constantly urged against the Asiatic have not been discussed here, for the reason that most of those who are loudest in making such charges are the very people who have no morals to boast of and who are doing all in their power to hinder the assimilation which they allege to be impossible.

Much of the space in this paper has been given to refute the economic arguments of the exclusionists; for if it can be shown that the American people have not been injured in matters of dollars and cents by the presence of the stranger within our gates, nearly all the other charges will have little weight with practical people. The attention of the California reader is specially called to the statistics of the manufacturing industries of this city which were popularly supposed to be controlled by Chinese cheap labor. Those statistics were printed in this present form nearly four years ago; but no Promotion Committee nor Manufacturers' Association of this State thought them worthy of notice. I have dwelt upon the necessity of conciliating the Chinese people, if for no higher reason than that we may retain the Chinese market for the disposal of our surplus products. In this regard let us hope that the good sense of the American people will not allow an

irresponsible trade union to so shape legislation that it will be detrimental to that large body of people who in the nature of things cannot be organized and make a concerted demand for special privileges.

It should be the function of government to look after the interest of this large, important, though unprotected class of unorganized toilers, who are constantly pillaged by the insidious methods of organized predatory combinations.

If, in placing the numerous extracts from newspapers, state documents and the speeches of California statesmen there is not logical order or historic continuity, the undersigned is blame-worthy. When this document was nearly completed it was decided to change the arrangement of the chapters, and this has marred the attempt at chronological order which was intended at the outset. For the arrangement of this statement into chapters and for the patient work in exhuming the many instances of outrages from the daily newspapers, I am indebted to the labors of Mr. NG POON CHEW, Managing Editor of *Chung Sai Yat Po*, a Chinese daily paper. Indeed, without the efficient aid of Mr. Chew, this paper could not be given to the public at this time; and for this reason I am pleased to associate his name with my own on the title page. I have to thank Dr. David Starr Jordan of the Stanford University and Professor Fryer of the University of California for the use that has been made of their papers on this subject. And I also acknowledge my obligation to the daily press of San Francisco, as well as to the custodians of the Library of the State University and of the San Francisco Free Public Library.

To those who would read more of the argument that can be made in support of reciprocity with the Chinese and of freedom of exchange with all nations, I recommend "Progress and Poverty", from the pages of which I have received nearly all that is of value in this paper not enclosed by quotation marks. As it is possible that this compilation may be revised and re-issued, the compiler desires that those to whom it may come will forward any criticisms or advice which in their estimation would make this statement more complete.

PATRICK J. HEALY.

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