

**AMERICA: A
LITANY
OF NATIONS**

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America: A Litany of Nations by George Sylvester Viereck

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GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK

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AMERICA

A LITANY OF NATIONS

BY

*W. G. Ballantine, Elsa Barker, A. I. du P. Coleman,
Emma Lazarus, William Ellery Leonard, Ludwig
Lewisohn, Leonard Van Noppen, Lloyd
Roberts and George Sylvester Viereck*

EDITED BY

GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK

NEW YORK

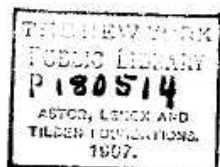
The New Immigrants' Protective League

1907

K. H. P.
K. B. C.

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PREFATORY NOTE

The great migratory movement to the Western World that, beginning in the days of the Norsemen and Christopher Columbus, has not even now reached its climax, furnishes a theme of epic largeness. Nevertheless, the singers and seers of the great Teutonic race that peoples and dominates this hemisphere have never approached the subject from a broadly human point of view. They have sung of "unguarded gates" without attempting to read in the past the triumph of the future, or observing with awe the miraculous welding of heterogeneous elements into the American nation.

Even now the voice of the Know-nothing is raised against foreign immigration, and his representatives in Congress are at work putting out the light of which Emma Lazarus has so eloquently sung. America could, at this moment, digest the whole population of Europe and still have breathing room. Yet self-acclaimed prophets in the manner of H. G. Wells express their horror at the patient, hard-working multitudes that are clamoring for entrance at our portal.

For this reason it has been thought pertinent to give utterance to the spirit of optimism that has ever been the lodestar of our nation. Still we need the alien blood to swell the life-arteries of our land. Still, like the fathers of this republic, must we regard as enemies of the country's prosperity those who, in the language of the Declaration of Independence, "endeavor to prevent the population of these

States." There is no need for pessimism as to our assimilative power if we read history in the light of logic. . . . Nor should we close the doors of hope that have swung open hospitably to us in the face of desirable aftercomers. A Jewish playwright once wittingly remarked: "The Americans are a happy people. . . . Why? . . . They came here before immigration restriction laws were in force." This attitude all liberal Americans should appreciate, whether their fathers have landed at Ellis Island or at Plymouth.

The authors of the poems encompassed in this small collection were, with one exception, born under the star-spangled banner. Their names are for the most part too well known to lovers of poetry to need comment here. They speak inspired and without bias. Their voice is the voice of truth: They are patriots and poets.

G. S. V.

The New Colossus

