gars. They should at least forewarn the United States authorities whenever any ship sails for our shores with such a cargo of Neapolitan offscourings as the *Italia* has brought over. Steam-ship companies, too, should be sharply reminded of their sanitary duties. The evidently incompetent surgeon of the *Italia* seems to have made no attempt to prevent the spread of the small-pox among the passengers. The woman who was first taken with the disease lay in her bunk near other persons, and the other patient, a man, wandered at will about the steerage, even when covered with the eruptions of the disease. The spirit which prompts the masters and owners of steam-ships to disregard the most ordinary sanitary precautions in dealing with steerage passengers, and to seek to conceal the existence of contagious diseases on board, is utterly incomprehensible. It is to be feared that there are very few ship-owners and consignees who would not willingly evade quarantine regulations to save a day's delay, even at the risk of bringing small-pox or yellow fever into the City.

The arrival of this diseased and otherwise highly objectionable horde of immigrants may serve to help on to its passage the bill for the regulation of immigration (H. R. No. 2,098) which was reported by Mr. Cox from the Committee on Foreign Affairs last session, and is now pending. The accompanying report of the committee sets forth ample reasons for the passage of the bill, and it ought not to be neglected. Along with provisions which would throw the burden of much of the expense of caring for immigrants upon the Government, where it belongs, are sections authorizing port authorities to compel the reshipment of criminals and incompetents without allowing them to land, and providing penalties for many abuses for which we now have no remedy. New-York bears more of the burdens and receives fewer of the benefits of immigration than any other State in the Union. Our Representatives in Congress should make an earnest effort to secure the passage of a law by which the inflowing tide may be better controlled and the evils attendant upon it checked.

UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRANTS.

The City has escaped a serious danger through the prompt and energetic way in which Health Officer SMITH has dealt with the case of the *Italia*. It is impossible to estimate the peril to the health of the people of New-York, or the expense to the State which would have been occasioned by the landing of 750 immigrants, all of whom had been exposed during the passage to the most virulent form of small-pox. The detention of the vessel, with its crew and passengers, at Quarantine, the vaccination of every person on board, and the thorough fumigation of the vessel and the effects of the passengers, will doubtless prevent the spread of the contagion on shore, but certainly no less rigorous measures could with safety have been adopted. Whatever irritation the Anchor Line Steam-ship Company may feel at the Health Officer's interference with their profitable traffic in bringing Italian lazzaroni to our shores, they need not expect the sympathy of the public. If our immigration laws were what they should be they would suffer much more severely, for there can be no doubt that the interests of the City, State, and Nation demand that on the arrival of a steam-ship with a steerage full of immigrants like those brought by the *Italia*, the filthy, wretched, lazy, ignorant, and criminal dregs of the meanest sections of Italy, and infected with a terrible disease into the bargain, the authorities of the port should have power to compel her master to take back his cargo whence he got it with the least possible delay.

We have unquestionably arrived at a point where we can no longer afford to overlook the evil of promiscuous immigration. This case of the *Italia* is proof enough of that. Count MAREFOSCHI, the Italian Vice-Consul here, declares that it is impossible that his Government can have connived at or had any knowledge of the shipment of paupers and criminals to this country, and we presume he is rightly informed upon that point, but it is plain that these degraded beings have not all, nor any considerable number of them, come over here of their own free will, with their own means, and with the intention of earning an honest living. It is impossible to determine how many of them are criminals, but it is evident from their wretched appearance that very few of them could have paid their passage, amounting to $40, from funds of their own. Whether the money was provided by the subscriptions of their sympathizing fellow-countrymen, who felt that they could well be spared, or was advanced by padrones and task-masters in this country who expect to profit by their labors, is immaterial. They are not a class of immigrants whom we can receive without danger to ourselves. In clannishness and persistent adherence to the speech, dress, and mode of life of their own country the Italian and the Chinese immigrant are on a par, though the much-abused wearers of the pigtail are more cleanly in their domestic habits. But the Chinaman very rarely gives the Police or the courts any trouble, while it is notorious that no foreigners with whom we have to deal, stab and murder on so slight provocation as the Italians. The Anchor Line Company have landed 2,160 Italian immigrants at this port since the 30th of October, not counting the *Italia's* complement of 750. How many of these men and women come over here with any prospect or desire of obtaining useful and productive employment, or with the skill and knowledge necessary to earn a decent living?

The United States Consuls at Genoa, Naples, and other Italian ports could render their country no better service than to maintain a vigilant supervision over emigrant ships, endeavoring by every means in their power to prevent the shipment of criminals, paupers, and professional beg-

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