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THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF "LIBERTY."

The Landing of the Immigrant.

By M. C. Pelton.

THE recent revolution in the old loose methods in regard to the inspection of immigrants was no doubt brought about by the first torchlight applied by those who considered unrestricted immigration a menace. They even went to such fanatic extremes as to wish to bar out all lowly foreigners for a certain number of years.

On June 13, 1894, the Immigration Investigation Commission was appointed, the Hon. Herman Stump of Maryland acting as chairman. Secretary Carlisle had prepared under his immediate supervision, a pithy and imperative charge to the commissioners to thoroughly investigate the immigrant labor question. They were directed "to secure and report such information, from all available sources, as will enable the department to employ its official force in the most effective manner for the enforcement of the immigration and alien contract-labor laws, according to their true intent and purpose, and to suggest such amendments as experience may have shown to be necessary to adapt them to existing conditions."

The brief history of the Immigration Investigating Commission is an absorbingly interesting and dramatic chapter. Probably no single body has in the same short time accomplished such definite ends. Working against popular opinion—though with the mighty support of the government—it has proved a strong, regulating force that is sure to become efficient and lasting.

UNDESIRABLES.

A Union-Jack steamer has passed quarantine. The healthy-bodied men and women have undergone the inspection down there, and are next to be put through the more searching inspection of the Commissioners of Immigration. They jostle side by side, young and old, Finns, Scandinavians and "The Queen's Own." An embarkation from the old to the new is about to take place, the transformation scene that, in whatsoever little world we move in, is reached out for with beseeching, trembling hands. "Once ashore," they all think, "and then will come the *real* life!"

Let us look into their minds and see what this thought means. Observe that braced-up, bow-legged Irish peasant with keen blue eyes, followed by three "childers," gypsy-like and with glowing cheeks; we could swear they were from Galloway, where Spanish blood mingles with Gaelic strain. What does the "new life" portend? We fear not much.

A BRAW LASSIE.

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The landing of the immigrant. (1896)

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