

CHAPTER IX

Immigration into the United States

“DAVID (prophetically exalted by the spectacle of a flaming sunset over New York) :

“It is the fires of God round His crucible.

“There, she lies, the great Melting Pot—listen ! There gapes her mouth—the harbour where a thousand mammoth feeders come from the ends of the world to pour in their human freight !

“Ah ! what a stirring and a seething ? Celt and Latin, Slav and Teuton, Greek and Syrian—black and yellow.

“VERA. Jew and Gentile.

“DAVID . . . how the great Alchemist melts and fuses them with His purging flame !

“Here they shall unite to build the Republic of Man and the Kingdom of God.

“Ah ! Vera, what is the glory of Rome and Jerusalem where all nations and races come to worship and look back, compared with the glory of America, where all races and nations come to labour and look forward !”

“Peace, peace to all ye unborn millions, fated to fill this giant continent—the God of our children give you Peace.”

ZANGWILL, 1908.

“But if a Simple Nationality thus, the moment it is born, starts changing into a Complex Nationality, so the Complex or Compound Nationality, the moment it is born, starts changing into a Simple Nationality. . . . Compound Nationalities fuse but slowly ; and Hybrid Nationalities still more slowly, but the Complex Nationality is—as I have called America, which is mainly of this class—the ‘Melting Pot.’ And though both the tyranny and tolerance may provide the heat of solution, love is a swifter factor than force, since political suppression, endangering as it does the nationality, recharges its battery, and retards the very process it would precipitate.”

ZANGWILL, “The Principles of Nationality,” 1917.

THE United States, as a nation of immigrants, naturally at first accepted the right of emigration ; but the founders of the new Republic recognized that some limitations might be necessary to protect it from the export of European criminals or its