

EAST-SIDE CAMEOS.

No. 4.

One advantage of helplessness - Hardships of newly-arrived immigrants -

Freeing our city and country of avertable taxes.

-- 0 --

The advantage to us of the newly-arrived immigrants' utter helplessness, was alluded to in our last chat. This is why that utter helplessness benefits them and us. If able to speak English, they could help themselves. And knowing English, long before they could reach our shelter, many would vanish as completely as if the earth had swallowed them. There are thousands of "mysterious" disappearances" annually. Men and women left the old country and were not heard of thereafter. They were traced to their arrival at Ellis Island. Thereafter all signs were lost. Unfortunately the fate of many can be imagined even if unexpressed. By far the largest percentage of disappearances was among those who could make themselves understood. They fell victims to designing persons, just because they spoke English and thought they were able to take care of themselves after landing. Had they not understood our language, they would have fearéd to leave their fellow-travelers until safely housed.

Many immigrants who arrive from Europe are aware of the Educational Alliance. Perhaps it was talked about in their villages. Possibly some relative or friend had studied or attended lectures here and written home about the work. The influence of our work has broadened yearly. Overseas it is felt in many remote towns and hamlets. It was not astonishing that last February the Austro-Hungarian Minister of Education spent hours here in learning our methods. The fame of the Educational Alliance had reached government officials

in his country. That fact should mean much to all Jews.

Newly-arrived immigrants naturally gravitate to us. But their lives have become unsettled, and for the time being are aimless. They hardly know what they want to do, or how to do things. Surely if ever they need a helping hand, they need it now, while readjusting themselves to changed conditions. These people will either be a benefit or a detriment to this land of their hopes. They will become producers, or wasters. Which it shall be, will depend very largely upon the training received at this time. They realize that they must depend upon us for that training.

Whatever their past conditions were, the important fact is that these immigrants are here and must work to support themselves and their dependents. They know that in "free America" they will be immune to persecution and oppression. Is it strange that they look this way? Prior to the awful Kishenev massacres, for years there had been a tidal wave of German immigration; another year Scandinavians came; another year the Irish were in the majority; but since those massacres, very many more Russian Jews have arrived than any other people. The Russian Jews are from Roumania, Galicia, Poland and Lituania. Significantly does the International Geographical History of the World state, "Foreign capitalists own all important manufacturing enterprises so the people derive little profit from them." But many of these people came here, toiled hard, are manufacturers and have become independent. Where would they be had they stayed at home?

We are apt to judge too much by externals, forgetting that poor clothes may cover future financiers, merchants, manufacturers,

professional men, and others. Where the passerby saw only a block of marble, Phidias saw an angel, and with mallet and chisel released her. We are trying to model as that master-sculptor carved his angel. Does it pay? Emphatically yes; so well in fact, that it would warrant our city in appropriating a large annual fund to support the work. If the mayor should appoint a board of research, and our institution were thoroughly investigated, the board would probably report that every dollar appropriated had paid for itself many times. Every person saved from becoming a public charge, means the addition of a definite amount annually, to the city treasury. It means better citizenship and a better country. And the reverse is equally true. Every undesirable or vicious person is not only a menace to the city and the commonwealth, but entails a heavy tax.

Needed today.

\$15,000. to pay a mortgage on Annex 109 East Broadway.

Funds to add several stories to the Educational Alliance Building.

\$150,000. additional for our Endowment Fund.

Contributions invited.

- 0 -

The Educational Alliance

East Broadway & Jefferson St.

'phone "1970 Orchard."

(To be continued shortly.)

90