

## **AN EXODUS AND AN OPPORTUNITY.**

On the 15th of February the czar of Russia, by imperial decree, abrogated the constitution under which the people of Finland have, within the Russian jurisdiction, maintained a species of autonomous political life and a special national character. A deputation of 500 men, representing the intelligence and property of the Finnish people, went a few days later to St. Petersburg, bearing a petition for mercy. They were rudely repulsed by the czar's officers and directed to leave the capital immediately upon pain of forcible ejection. These events have mightily stirred the Finnish blood. Resistance is, of course, impossible, and this the Finns well know; but they can, as did the English Puritans, abandon the land where what they deem their rights are denied them, and this they are preparing to do in great numbers. A Finnish Political and Immigration Society has been organized, and its agents are making inquiry for lands beyond the Atlantic, their choice, it is said, lying between Canada and the Argentine republic.

The San Francisco Post is seeking to rouse in California a public movement looking to colonization of Finnish families there. Says the Post:

A better class of immigrants than these Finns does not exist in any country. They have contributed more to the wealth and material prosperity of Northern Europe than any other race. They are the rank and file and the captains of the industry of Russia, Scandinavia, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Wherever they have planted their homes in this Western hemisphere they have not only commanded the respect of their neighbors, but they have developed into the best citizenship; they have invariably laid the impress of their character upon every community in which they have settled; and they have inevitably enriched by their energy, their thrift, their economy and their knowledge of industrial requirement, every vocation in which they have engaged under American institutions. No country in the world is better adapted for the reception of colonies from Finland than is California, and throughout the Pacific coast there are regions that would yield a thousand-fold in return for the industry of this people, inured as they are to the rigors of an almost Arctic climate, and compelled as they have been to wreat their substance from a grudging soil. California would be, indeed, a promised land—an Eden spot—for these exiles.