

MONSIGNOR BEDINI IN THE SENATE.—General Cass is naturally apprehensive lest the maltreatment to which the Papal Nuncio has been subjected in the West should be avenged upon his son, our Chargé at Rome. His motion for the correspondence led to a debate in the Senate, in which most of the leading members were drawn out, and many sensible things said. With one exception, all the speakers concurred in condemning the outrages to which the Legate's visit to the West has given rise: with greater or less distinctness all, save Mr. Weller, of California, united in pronouncing the Cincinnati riots and the the Baltimore threats to be a disgrace to the character of the American people. Without wishing to dissent from the ground taken by Senators Cass, Mason, Douglas, Butler, or Everett, we must say that Senator Dawson, of Georgia, seems to us to have been the only speaker who really probed the affair to the bottom and told the truth to the country. He was right in stating that the native citizens of the United States have had little or nothing to do with the Bedini disturbances, and that the great majority, if not the entirety of the rioters, were individuals of foreign birth. Nothing can be truer than this, and no truth requires more imperatively to be placed before the public. The people of this country are essentially a law fearing race; they have lived for near a century almost without legal restraint, and have never shown by their conduct that they were unfit for this large share of liberty. With our foreign population the case is different. These—mainly Irish and Germans—come here from a soil on which they were little better than serfs, and, finding themselves suddenly elevated to the rank of freemen, they grow dizzy from the change, and not unfrequently lose their balance altogether. Liberty, in their eyes, signifies the right of being turbulent, noisy, destructive, and unruly—the privilege of indulging all those vicious propensities which bayonets and policemen's sticks repressed in the land of their birth. They are of two classes: the ignorant boors, who were constantly in dread of police and soldiery in Europe, and who, strange to the absence of these formidable overseers in this country, cannot resist the temptation of doing wrong, just to convince themselves of the reality of their freedom: and the philosophic revolutionaries of continental Europe, who, having been expelled from their native home, come here to practise socialism, and waste their energies in attempts to convince the American people that they would be happier were they to share the fruits of their toil with idle theorists like the philosophers themselves. Both of these classes are always ready to get up a riot—more especially if they fancy it will injure one of their old oppressors or annoy a European traveller. Such are the authors of the Bedini disturbances. Now these men would be put down much more rapidly than they are if it were not for two causes, to one of which Mr. Dawson adverted in his speech. In the first place, there exists in this country a contemptible desire on the part of politicians to curry favor with our foreign population, in order to secure their vote; and to gain this purpose they will throw a mantle over many faults they condemn, and endeavor to excuse in a foreigner crimes which they would insist on having punished in a native born citizen. We are all aware of the sympathy which was attempted to be roused in this city in favor of the Fourth of July rioters; politics had a narrow escape on that occasion of defeating the ends of justice entirely. In the second place, the penalty of crime—whose foot is said by poets to be lame—seems particularly slow of movement in this country. We are long-suffering to a degree: a parcel of rowdies may shock our ears and offend against our sense of right for days and weeks before we are sufficiently roused to act.

Senator Dawson was quite right also, in stating that such occurrences as have taken place at Cincinnati could not have occurred in Georgia. It is due to the South to admit the truth of the assertion—an admission that will involve no controversy if our previous statements are admitted. New Orleans alone excepted, Southern cities are not filled with troops of foreigners either unfitted for liberty by ignorance or impelled to license by the dictates of a licentious philosophy. There are fewer isms and higher law theories at the South than at the North. The true American character is perhaps more fairly developed there than in our portion of the country.

We hope that the speeches of Senator Dawson and his colleagues will be widely read throughout the country. General Cass' evidence is surely worth as much as Signor Gavazzi's; and whether or no Bedini be guilty of the offences laid to his charge, it does not befit us to assume the part of executioners.