

DEMOCRATS AND CHINESE.

Colonel Bee said to a reporter of a Democratic contemporary: "The newspapers have raised a lot of rot and humbug about absolutely nothing at all. We have been passing Chinamen through the country right along in transit ever since the passage of the Restriction act in 1852 up to the present time, and there was never any question raised until that fool down in New Orleans kicked up this fuss. Why, there have been over 3500 passed through in that way. We always brought them through by way of New York, and the Collector there, by direction of Mr. Bayard, passed them without question."

It is extremely probable that Colonel Bee knew what he was talking about, and it is extremely improbable that our Democratic contemporary would have put any such words into his mouth regarding Secretary Bayard if he had not used them; so we are forced to the conclusion that, whether right or wrong, Secretary Winston is only following out the policy regarding Chinese in transit which was pursued by the late Democratic Administration, and that any harsh criticism of the attitude of Attorney-General Miller and the Secretary of the Treasury comes with bad grace from Democratic newspapers.

The truth is that the Democratic party of the East has never been honest or sincere in its opposition to Chinese immigration, as the attempted smothering of the Exclusion bill conclusively shows. An anti-Chinese sentiment made a very good stalking horse, and the rights of white labor as against coolie labor was a very good text for a Democratic stump speech, but when it came to affirmative legislation to keep the cheap labor out of the country the traditions of the party were too strong for the Democrats, and the work had to be begun, carried on and finished chiefly by Republicans.

If Colonel Bee is correct in his statement that under Democratic rule there were some 3500 transit Chinese admitted to the United States, it may become necessary to pass still more stringent laws than now exist. Who can say how great a proportion of this 3500 ever got out of the United States after they had landed? Who will guarantee that they did not get lost or mislaid in transit, or that they are not now at work in somebody's orchard or vineyard, or improving the country by working on a railroad?

The sandlot platform contained a plank which declared not alone that the Chinese must not come, but as well that the Chinese must go. This did not commend itself to people generally, for they imagined that if the stream of immigration could be dammed up or turned aside the coolies here would go in time of their own accord; but if the restriction and exclusion laws are of so little practical use as Colonel Bee says they have been, we may have to think about a deportation law, and decide in earnest that the presence of Chinese among us is detrimental to the interests of the nation, and that they must go back to their own country.