

The Wasp
April 10, 1886

Judging a Judge

Public Opinion, as Found in Our Esteemed Contemporaries

The decision of Judge Sawyer that it is illegal for American citizens to assemble peaceably together with arms and drive aliens away from their homes and business by threats of death is a surprise and a mortification to every patriot and honest man. It is evident that in the struggle between Free White Labor and Mongolian Slavery we must not rely on the assistance of the United States courts; but, thank Heaven, the tribunal of conscience is still uncorrupt and affirms our right to drive the Heathen Invader from our doors.—*People's Palladium*.

Judge Sawyer is probably laying himself out to capture the presidential nomination by making himself solid with the mawkish sentimentalers whose delicate sensibilities are shocked by the proposition to take a rise out of the heathen. It is rather more than suspected that Judge Sawyer is himself not wholly of Caucasian blood—*Trumpet of Freedom*.

A more preposterous and absurd decision we never heard of! If Judge Sawyer supposes that Chinamen have the right to leprosize here unmolested, and sell us labor and commodities for whatever we are willing to give, he has mistaken the spirit and the letter of American law, and the temper of the people of California. We will inform his honor (and we used to be a lawyer before we were married) that it is not unlawful to let a Chinaman alone. Blackstone says distinctly, and in no uncertain tone, that you may let any man alone and be within the pale of the law. It is obvious, however, that you cannot let alone a lot of Chinese aliens if they continue to reside in the same town with you; for, as Kent expressly states, "the spheres of contiguity impinge." What, then, is a necessary conclusion? Why, that the Chinese must be made to go where we can exercise our right of letting them alone. If Judge Sawyer knew as much law as our four-year-old girl we should suspect that stupid little creature's paternity.—*Milpitas Enlightener*.

It may be good law but it strikes a blow at the very foundation of the well-spring of our liberties! The Constitution of the United States says the right of the people to bear arms shall not be abridged. The right to bear them implies the right to use them, and in this is, of course, included the right to threaten to use them. That is all that was done, and the action it will be seen rests upon the broad basic principle of constitutional right. So, even if Judge Sawyer's decision is good law, it is bad constitution as well as malicious nonsense. We have always stood up for Judge Sawyer when our loathsome contemporary, the Squaw Gulch War-whoop, has opened upon him the food-gates of its abuse, but he is a tub which will hereafter have to stand on its own

bottom. We shall see how he will get on without the support of “the lever which moves the world.”—*Bitter Creek Pugnator*

It is infamous that a servant of the people (and Judge Sawyer is nothing more) should dare to render a decision directly contrary to the feelings and sentiments of those who pay his wages, and to shield himself behind such a flimsy technicality as obedience to the law. We must tell him that there is a higher and more binding law—the law of self- protection, passed by a Congress of angels, signed by the Executive of the Universe and inscribed in lines of fire across the eternal firmament of the everlasting human soul! When wages of White men fall to the rice-and-rat standard we appeal to that great primal statute and defy the miserable pettifogger “dressed in a little brief authority” who pulls the Draconian code on freemen, but himself cowers and cringes at the feet of the Chinese Emperor. He makes us sick.—*The Lord’s-Day Impaler of Tyranny*.

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