

In the confusion of tongues and nations to be noted in our great cities, and while hearing much of the Irish, Italian, and other interesting nationalities in our midst, we have, perhaps, failed to note the wonderful increase of our Polish citizens. Yet they are fast becoming a power in the land.

It is now even said that a Pole discovered America before Columbus. According to this story, John of Kolno (in Russian Poland) commanded a Danish vessel, which is said to have reached the coast of Labrador in 1473.

One of the earlier successful settlements was made in 1855, when a large body of Poles, headed by a Polish Franciscan monk, established a colony in Texas, which has lived and flourished. They profess to have built the first Polish church in America.

At present hundreds of what used to be called abandoned farms in New England have passed into Polish hands. They are also making great inroads upon the eastern end of Long island in the same way. The Connecticut valley and western Rhode Island bid fair to become New Poland in the not distant future. In Pennsylvania, Illinois, New York, Wisconsin and Michigan the Poles are prospering and increasing in ever mounting numbers.

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It is estimated that the total immigration of Poles previous to 1907 was about 2,000,000, and that the total Polish population, with American born children, was 3,000,000 in 1907. For 1908 the figures are raised to 4,000,000. They are now organizing many colonies and settlements. Whenever they gather together, the church and the parish school are sure to spring up. They bid fair to make a splendid body of citizens in this new world.