The United States has always had the reputation of being the great “melting pot” of the world. Unfortunately, however, America has had far from a welcoming approach to immigration, beginning in the mid-nineteenth century. Fairly quickly after the nationality of immigrants began to shift to those outside of the Anglo-Saxon heritage, Americans began to clamor for laws to limit immigration. Oftentimes, the treatment of immigrants was nothing short of an embarrassment for the nation. This is particularly the case with regards to Chinese immigrants. As Chinese immigrants first trickled over, many Americans encouraged their immigration. Soon, however, tides of immigrants began flooding in from China, and American citizens began to clamor for restrictions on the number of Chinese allowed into the country. The once “open-door” to America began to close to Asian countries, especially China and Japan. The experience of the Chinese immigrant has always been greatly affected by the reaction to his race, as has the experience of the African American and the Native American. Their inability to assimilate as the white immigrants from Europe could has made their American experience one of discrimination and hatred. Initial sympathy and acceptance gave way to the negative response of the American public and finally culminated in the passing of laws in several states, particularly California, and even by the United States Congress that severely restricted the immigration of the Chinese.