

Sunday Rest.

Of recent weeks a certain class of shopkeepers in New York and New Jersey who keep no Sabbath at all have been reminded that Sunday is the civil day of rest in this land. It is a pity that these traders have not yet learned the elementary lessons in citizenship, but must be taught by the police not to violate the civil laws.

The civil statutes of both states are liberal enough. They forbid Sunday trading, but allow Seventh Day observers to keep open Sundays provided they do not disturb the public quiet. This qualification is ample in most instances, and even where some hardship does exist the average Jew is not inclined to protest. He knows that being in the minority, he must submit to certain inconveniences.

Now, there are some shopkeepers of whom a number are Jews, who wish to make all the money they can, and, observing no Sabbath at all, wish to utilize Sunday for trade while their competitors are at church or at home. Their conduct is not legitimate enterprise; it is unpatriotic and unfair. It is un-American to violate the law of the land and take advantage of our neighbors.

It is time, then, that this class should be taught a needed lesson. So far as Jewish shopkeepers are concerned, we trust that they will require no further reminder of their duty. What kind of children will they rear if they keep neither the law of their religion nor the law of the land? What kind of citizens can be developed by an atmosphere where everything is business, and no thought of rest, or worship, or self-culture enters into their calculations?

The evil is happily confined to but few of our co-religionists, and perhaps it is due more to their ignorance than to their greed. But it must be checked for the fair fame of American Israel.—*Hebrew Messenger*.

Only Jews Increasing in Ireland.

An interesting development in Ireland these days is this, namely, that the only religious element increasing in Ireland is that of the Jews. Father Michael Higgins, the distinguished administrator of the Catholic parish of Queenstown, is authority for the statement. Figures in the registrar's office in Dublin he says clinches it as a fact. At any rate, the most careless observer cannot help noticing the numerousness of Jews on every hand. Their principal avocation is that of "commercial traveler." They drive through the country districts in "tax" carts—akin to a dog cart—and sell wares of all kinds on the installment plan to the people of small villages and on the farms. The Jewish community in Cork is about to build a synagogue. They have been holding services in the houses where they reside, but they are getting more pretentious, and a synagogue will soon be numbered among the religious buildings in the Athens of Ireland.

An Imposing Synagogue for Rome.

The Jewish Congregation "Universia Israelitica," of Rome, has concluded an agreement with the municipality of Rome to surrender a prominent part of the Ghetto to the city authorities for the purpose of erecting an imposing structure. In exchange for this the city has given to the Jewish congregation a plot of ground valued at 100,000 lire, on the bank of the Tiber, for the erection of a synagogue. As that spot on the bank of the river is rich in archaeological deposits, the Jewish community is bound to turn over to the municipality all articles of art or of historic value free of charge. This place is to be adorned with a synagogue twenty-four meters high, which is to be surrounded only by gardens and school buildings. The synagogue must be finished within five years, otherwise the congregation is to pay a fine of 3,000 lire. In case the synagogue is not erected within ten years the contract will be void.

What a remarkable incident in history! the municipality of Rome desires its Jewish citizens to rear a synagogue on the spot consecrated to *Jupiter* and *Venus*! Verily the prophecy of Israel's sages is about to be realized: "Jerusalem must be rebuilt from the ruins of Rome." *La nithmalah Jerushalajim elah m'charbanah shel Roma!*—*Jewish Exponent*.

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