

sounded patriotic, of course, but the firm that was thus getting so much free advertising did not call the public's attention to the fact that with the exception of a few floor walkers and heads of departments, most of their clerks are women! It is even rumored that a large reduction will soon be made in the store's force, and that most of those who will be thrown out of employment will be males. But the firm got the cheap advertising all the same.—*Hebrew Standard*.

The Jews of Germany and The Anti-Semitic Question.

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[Concluded from Last Week.]

As we are now approaching the heights from which we not only view the past but link our experience with the present and endeavor to look into the future, I feel as if I am in the presence of a task somewhat beyond my capacity. The history of the past having been written for us it only remains that we employ our perceptive faculties to read it aright. But when it comes to the present, one must needs be something more than human to command those qualities which should enable us to divorce personal impressions from general conditions and tell with unprejudiced language a story of events that unfold themselves in our presence, the while we are engaged in a struggle to turn back the wave-forces that come in with irresistible strength from a sea of manifestations that has been fed by exhaustless streams of animosity.

Anti-Semitism in Germany! What is it? Whence came it? Why does it manifest itself? These be questions of moment, and I shall endeavor partly to answer them.

Professor Goldwin Smith, who is one of the most prolific writers on the Jewish question from the anti-Semitic standpoint, charges that "the Jews everywhere refuse to live the life of the country in which they dwell, or to support themselves and their families by productive industries." It is upon this that he grounds the hatred and assaults upon them and justifies the movement. Starting out with this false impression as a sentiment, presently it becomes a passion, is gradually evolved into a theoretic system with a final contention for political sanction, intended by its advocates to become universal.

In civilized countries it has been fostered in Spain, England, Italy, Russia and Germany and, I regret to say, we have not always been able to ignore its presence in the United States. The inquisition of Spain and the diabolical inventions of Torquemada have left

their ineffaceable records in history. England's share of infamy for the inhuman treatment of the Jews during the 13th century and their exclusion from her domains for more than three centuries is a blot upon her escutcheon that time has not yet sufficed to erase. Rome exhausted the lines of iniquity by lending assistance to every other country that passed laws of oppression. Russia has earned the title of the modern barbarian in her treatment of Jewish subjects. Austria has been fed upon passion so generously that her legislative body or Reichsrath has aptly and appropriately been termed a "Bear-garden." Germany has but recently been emancipated from laws of oppression—when, alas! it is again becoming not only attached to its discarded idols of hatred, but bids fair to become the head centre of a movement intended to extend its alarming influence over measures that shall make justice hide her face in shame rather than witness the acts falsely done in her name.

Like the aurora borealis, that comes at will and disappears as suddenly to come again when least expected, or like the meteoric train that comes at stated intervals in the revolution of the planetary system, anti-Semitism comes and goes. At times it breaks out in unexpected places to display its violence, and as suddenly the exerted energy expends itself and disappears. At others it comes around with the regularity of solar movement to chill the path of Israel and to return and then come again as time rolls onward. Just at present Germany is the home of the plant and so luxuriant is its growth and so well grounded are its roots that shoots have crossed the Rhine into France to bring misery to a slandered soldier's family, unmerited disgrace to a literary defender, and anxiety to every Jew within the confines of the Republic.

Again and again has the question been asked: What is the cause of this race-hatred? and to-day, as in days long past, the answer that comes is unsatisfactory and inadequate.

To quote from Goldwin Smith again. In speaking of the expulsion of the Jews from Russia and the anti-Semitic feeling of Europe, he justifies both by charging the Jew with being a "parasitic creature who eats out the core of nationality."

In a most admirable article written in reply by Isaac Besht Bendavid for the *North American Review*, September, 1891, he quotes from Frederick the Great, who laid it down as an axiom that "to oppress the Jew has never brought prosperity to any government"

The professor further accused them of "carrying the burdens of state as lightly as they could," to which Mr. Bendavid again replies: that Napoleon, when he established the kingdom of Westphalia, was the first to grant the Jews of Germany civil rights; yet when Germany rose against Napoleon on his return from Russia, the Jews of Germany remembered only that they were Germans. As Germans they took the field and gave their blood freely for the Fa