

The Jewish Herald

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PROGRESS OF REFORM.

Apparently reform is reforming very fast, if reform it can be called. We would rather call it deform instead of reform. Rabbi Leon Harrison of Temple Israel at St. Louis, Mo., was known ten years ago to have opposed a fair which was to be given under the auspices of the United Hebrew Charities organization of that city on a Friday night. He is now opposing the orthodox faction of the same organization by advocating the Charity Fair to be kept open this year on Friday night.

If the so-called reform Rabbi is making such strides away from Judaism, as he has made in the last ten years, we surmise his Judaism in ten years from now will have to be put under a microscope to be distinguishable, and still we are not surprised, as reform is advocating assimilation, the Rabbi is setting the pace.

Nor are we worried, for the sooner they assimilate and get off the scene the better it will be for Judaism.

Bn. Zruch.

The management of The Herald does not share in the opinion of Bn. Zruch. We'll admit the Bible is sacred and is the work of a higher Being than man. Hence we have no right to change it. Since Saturday, the seventh day, is the Sabbath, and Friday night the eve thereof, we would not relegate the Holy Scriptures to the rear to be dis-

regarded, but would advocate the closing of the Fair on Friday. We wouldn't fatten Charity at the expense of Faith.

Condemns Sensationalism

PAPER READ BEFORE ARNOLD LITERARY SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA, PA.

By Mr. Julius J. Price, of Baltimore, Md.

The civilized world is passing through one of those periods when the multitudes grow restless under the restraint of authority.

Whether we look to Russia to behold a people struggling for a constitution, to England to see labor fighting for a place in the affairs of State or even to our own land to behold ourselves passing through a great wave of symptoms of popular unrest. The progress of science and industry is destroying the old, establishing a new order of things. Our country, especially, is in the midst of social, political and industrial unrest. Social problems of every kind and every intensity are demanding solutions. The vast expanse of our territory and our extensive and manifold interests are at once our great opportunity and our danger; danger lest their very magnitude render them unwieldy in our hands. Under such conditions then it is not to be wondered at if we find hasty conclusions on every side. Rather ought we to be surprised if in all this uncertainty of new problems, we did not discover a popular unrest and a popular clamor.

But to us it is very evident that such an unrest is all about us and is finding an outlet in various channels. One result of it is found in the increased growth of sensational literature, which is flooding the country. Products of the time are those writers who in the midst of the country's prosperity find nothing to praise—everything to condemn. In most cases, their every effort is not to place truth in a pure light before the people, but by a species of exaggeration to establish conditions which will cause a demand

for their highly sensational pages.

They perceive a people in throes of sensationalism and offer as a cure more sensation. They alone are good, the victims of their attack are bad, and in deed they are captivating enough, so much so, that men fail to look into their motives and analyze their charges. A headline is a sufficient appeal to the feverish minds of the people and condemnation follows. A mere assertion is too often taken for fact. The sensational writer has only to state his case and is not called upon to show a substitute for that which he delights in destroying. It is not very difficult to picture what such a state of affairs must inevitably lead to. Slander and untruthful assaults on men never have brought good to any State and show no prospects of ever doing it in the future. Some reaction must surely follow and then the danger is that it will not be the guilty who suffer the penalty of their destructive work but their innocent victims untruthfully assailed.

In this same class are those agitators who are "but the froth upon the mountain wave, the bird that shrieks upon the sullen tempest's wind." With little if any real knowledge of conditions they hold forth before the people with remedies for all evils. They especially in the times of unrest are a menace. Their wild imaginations are a constant source of danger to the State. They are the cause, as Burke says, of that "optical illusion which makes a briar at our nose of greater magnitude than an oak at 500 yards distance."

These are the times and those are the products of the times; sensational literature and agitation whose object is not so much to build up as to tear down, who think that no good can come unless they first destroy something. Their efforts are directed first of all against men in the Government service. It was a saying of Sir Walter Raleigh "that men lay the blame on those evils whereof they know not, the ground, upon public misgovernment, and so it happens today that men in office, good and bad without distinction, are subjected to attacks which sweepingly

and indiscriminately include the good and bad. They can be regarded as nothing but destructive to the State. The people are unable to distinguish the good from the bad and there arises a general distrust of public men or if not distrust, a state of indifference to evils and evil men. Public sentiment, which should be the keystone to legislation, is withdrawn from the legislators to be followed by a lack of respect for existing law and a growing demand for changes, without regard to their special need.

Surely it cannot be said on any just grounds, that our public men are traitors to their duty. Moreover it is a reflection upon ourselves when we say that our representatives cannot govern us intelligently. If such is the case, then nothing but destruction awaits our democratic form of government. Hence the necessity of strong public sentiment behind our legislation. The people must see the danger to our representative government and make a stand against sensational literature and the wild cries of agitators. But as we should be discreet in starting reforms much more is it necessary that we be discreet in carrying them on.

"In these troublous times what is needed is men". A healthier public spirit which is not afraid to render authority the obedience which is its due and give to law the respect it ought to command. Education too, must play its part, especially that education which imprints in our hearts the fundamental principles of morals and religion. The real reform of evils is for every man to reform himself, to build up in himself a strong and noble character, to be conscious of his high mission in life and of his duties to his fellow-men, to meet the trials of life with wisdom and strength and never to fail in his duty to social security and universal sympathy among men, men who at last see things in their true light and in their true related order.

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