

the privilege of using it they had to render certain military service to the State. For example, each earl or knight had to find, arm and maintain a number of soldiers at his own expense. In view of the perpetual wars then raging, it is not surprising that this military service proved irksome to the aristocracy. But it took them several centuries to throw these warlike burdens on the shoulders of the poor, in the form of tax, and to transform themselves from merely feudal lords and assume the title of land owners.

Goldsmith has given us a picture of England in the mediæval days:

"A time there was ere England's grief began,
When every rood of ground maintained its man;
For him light labor spread her wholesome store,
Just gave what life required, but gave no more;
His best companions, innocence and health,
And his best riches, ignorance of wealth."

The grand old artisan of five hundred years ago was not hurried over his work. He took his time over it, and threw his soul into it. Hence the paintings, the sculptures, the buildings, and those marvelous examples of smithwork of the middle ages which one sees now and then in castles or museums—all bear the impress of independence.

Beauty can never be evolved from the slavish soul. Those who sigh over the decadence of the artistic sense among the masses, should remember that the one great reason why art has been so sedulously cultivated in France and Italy is because the great majority of those people have free and independent homes. When men and women are cowed by hundreds in factories and made into machines, they must inevitably lose some of that splendid self-reliance which is the soul of a great people.

These are some of the thoughts which are agitating the public mind of Britain today. Will the rulers heed this agitation, or is it possible that after the calm will come the whirlwind?

J. H. WARD.

EUROPE, February 17th, 1890.

JERUSALEM AWAKENING.

A correspondent of the *Christian World* writes as follows to that paper:

Anything indicative of an awakening and a revival of energy in the Holy Land, especially at Jerusalem, must prove of special interest to every Christian who is watching the "signs of the times." Being now on a visit to the Holy City for the seventh time, after a considerable interval, I find the changes that have recently occurred so marked and suggestive that I am induced to indicate some of the most prominent for the information of your large circle of readers, many of whom, I feel sure, are deeply interested in the future of this land of sacred memories.

On approaching the city from the west in former years there were scarcely any buildings, except the Russian convent and the Monte-

flore almshouses, to intercept the view of the city walls; now the whole plain is covered with private residences and colonies of Jews, whilst near to the Jaffa Gate are large numbers of shops already tenanted and numerous others in course of construction. This extension beyond the walls has become necessary on account of the rapid increase of the population. I am informed by Mr. Moore, British Consul here, that within the last three or four years about 20,000 Jews have come to Jerusalem for permanent residence in and around the city, and that of the entire population of about 70,000, it is estimated that nearly 40,000 are Jews. He also stated that the influx of Jews into other parts of Palestine during recent years has been entirely without precedent. The principal streets which but a few years since were almost impassable in rainy weather, have been paved with stone, a new wide street has been opened up through a densely populated quarter, and five hotels are now open for the reception of the annually increasing number of visitors and traders from all lands. Public works of importance have been erected, and others are in progress. The road from Jaffa to Jerusalem, at one time all but impassable, has been reconstructed by an eminent engineer—over it our own and other carriage services are in full operation—a good road has been formed from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, and another from Jerusalem to Hebron; several others are rapidly approaching completion—from Jaffa to Nablous (Shechem), 40 miles; Jerusalem to Jericho, 20 miles; Caipha to Nazareth, 20 miles; and Nazareth to Tiberias, 18 miles. Jerusalem has hitherto been almost wholly dependent for its water supply upon its large underground cisterns for the reception of rain water, which, after a summer's drought, often proves insufficient in quantity, and almost unfit for use. The government is now about to introduce an unfailing supply from a spring of pure water beyond Solomon's Pools—about nine miles distant. A large flour mill, established by the Messrs. Bergheim, having proved both a great benefit and a financial success; others with large steam power are in progress of erection; soap factories have commenced operations, and at Jaffa steam saw-mills have been established. Colonies of Jews following agricultural pursuits, stated to be successful, are located, one about five miles from Jaffa, and a larger one at Limerin, near Casarea, originated and assisted by the Rothschild family. The before-named road to Jericho is being constructed by the government, who have taken up all the land available in the best parts of the valley for the development of an extensive scheme of agricultural operations, which, with such a temperature, so fertile a soil, and well watered by the copious streams from Elisha's fountain, should furnish abundant and remunerative crops. Grapes, bananas, sugar cane, cotton, and various fruits and vegetables, have for some time past been cultivated

here with much success. The increased amount of rain which has fallen the last few years in Palestine has had a most marked effect in larger and more abundant harvests than hitherto known.

The most important results, however, of all may be anticipated from the railway about to be constructed between Jaffa and Jerusalem. As rumors in former years have prevailed which have never been realized, I called upon Mr. Fruittiger, the banker, to whom the concession has been granted by the Turkish government, and was assured by him that the necessary capital had been subscribed, and that the works would commence immediately upon the close of the rainy season in early spring, and pushed on urgently to completion. The influence such a line of communication between Jerusalem and the coast may be expected to exert is incalculable, for as a natural sequel the harbor, which is now inaccessible to Mediterranean steamers, must be deepened and enlarged and the rocky barrier which prevents ingress removed. It is contemplated to subsequently extend this line via Gaza and El-Arish over the short desert to Port Said and Ismailia on the Maritime Canal, thus connecting with the railway system of Lower Egypt for Cairo, Alexandria and Suez, and to the Fayoum and Upper Egypt. Such important action for the improvement of the Holy City and the development of the resources of Palestine, and opening up of the country to commerce, are without precedent in modern times. Viewed in connection with the numerous and active efforts being made by various religious agencies throughout the country for the evangelization of the people and the conversion of the Jews, these facts must encourage every lover of God's ancient people to hope that His set time to favor Zion is fast approaching.

THE TITHING OFFICE.

On March 5th the Territorial Supreme Court made an order terminating the lease of the Gardo House, taken possession of by the receiver in the Church suits, for the reason that it was now possible to demand and obtain a higher rental than that which was being paid under the lease for its use by the Church. Today there was another scene added in the great outrage of confiscating the property of the "Mormons." The Supreme Court held a brief session, at which P. L. Williams, who figures as the attorney of Receiver Dyer, asked the court to terminate the lease of the Tithing Office grounds, for the reason that he thought a larger rental could be obtained.

The lease was understood, when made, to run till the suits were finally adjudicated one way or the other. For this reason it was made to run for one year, or until otherwise ordered by the court. This provision was to meet the uncertainty of the time when the case would be ended in the courts.