

[From the London Evangelical Magazine]
THE PLACE OF THE JEW IN THE
MODERN WORLD.

On the whole, probably, the most notable figure in the world to-day is the Jew. The most strongly individual, the most resolute, the most persistent, the most ubiquitous, the most closely knit and united of all that dwell on the face of the earth are these Jews. They are more full of character, of strongly marked force, physical, mental, and moral, than any other historic race; while they are more patient and continent—continent of their own national individuality, which they refuse to confound or to blend with that of any other people in the world. For four thousand years, at any rate, they have maintained their national type unchanged. Jacob is the original pattern after which the Jew is moulded still. Varieties of country, climate, civilization—unparalleled absolutely in the experience of any other people—have hardly remoulded a line. The sternest and most prolonged persecutions, torture, torment, every form of spoliation, every form of solicitation, have left them where they found them, absolutely proof against external influences, and equally against that wearing, wasting influence of time, which has preyed on the individuality of every other race in the ancient and modern world.

We English are wont to pride ourselves on our vigorous individuality, and on our power to make ourselves at home, that is, to play the master over nature, in every habitable region of the earth. But the Jew beats us. He has wandered where we have never penetrated; he has settled, and kept his native character intact, where Englishmen have gained no lodgment, and might find it desperately difficult to maintain themselves against the united forces of nature and of man. In the heart of Asia, in the heart of the Americas, wherever our explorers have penetrated, there the Jew has been before them, with a type of face, form, and character, as clear, as sharply cut, as when, two thousand years ago, they scattered themselves in the civilized regions of the Roman Empire; or two thousand years earlier still, settled themselves, a race by themselves, in the midst of the warring and luxurious tribes of Canaan, and began to separate life which no influence known to earth has been strong enough either to confound or to destroy. It is the fashion in Christendom to speak of the Jew with a touch of scorn. To me, I confess, they seem to be on the whole the first of living races; needing but the touch of a divine fire, which burnt in the veins of their fathers, and for which they are waiting to work out the most remarkable national destiny. They have many qualities strikingly like the English. That man was dreaming, but it was not altogether a baseless dream, who wrote a clever book to prove that we English are the lost ten tribes found again; that in us the old characteristics, the old advantages, reappear with the old benedictions. He is right so far, that the English in their political constitution, in their ideas about land, about woman, about the family bond, in their intense patriotism, in their colonizing passion, in their aptitude for commerce, and in their indomitable energy of purpose, reproduce on a large scale in the modern world, the features which in the old world distinguished the Jew. The Jew has one advantage over us—a deeper tincture of genius, pure genius, which with them is common, while with us it is rare, though it is in splendid form when it appears.

I think that the presence of the Jew in his native Jewish manhood amongst us still, meeting us in every nook of the world which we may penetrate, is a grand vindication of the ways of Providence in the choice and the culture of his race. Some prescient power surely chose them, drew them out of the mass of the idolatrous tribes around them, and spent on them patient, loving culture. Every other race that was in the front in the old days has decayed and perished. But the race which God called His own, on whose future, so to speak, He staked His honor as a wise and prescient Ruler of the world, has nobly justified His choice. The seed of Abraham, His friend, has played a remarkable part in the world's history through four centuries, and retains the characteristics, habits, and traditions of its young infancy in the wilderness, untouched by the storms that have swept through the world, and by the subtle, sapping wash of the stream of time, in which it seems to be the only thing which has strength to endure.

A fundamental point in considering such a question is this. Such a history, such a constitution of things as makes such a history possible, has large providential meanings; occupies a very important place in the world. If I may say—in the providential rule of the world. We may speculate why the Jews are not converted. But the fact that they are neither converted, nor absorbed, nor destroyed, under influences which would have issued in one of these results in the case of any other known to history, is the significant thing about them; and it is for some high purpose, some great wisdom, some great work, or both, that a higher hand maintains the soul of that people in life, and suffers not their doom to be moved. Christianity is a conquering faith. But a religion can only master and absorb another when it is vitally very much stronger and more intense. The assimilative power in bodies, souls, and faiths is life, vital force. And in point of vital force it would appear that the Christianity of Christendom, I say nothing of the Christianity of Christ, is not vitally so much more intense than the Judaism of the Jew as to be able to master and absorb it. Relatively Judaism is a stronger thing in the Jew, than Christianity is in Christendom. And until these proportions are decisively altered, we shall aim at the conversion of the Jews on a larger scale in vain. But I must not expatiate. The first idea which I shall endeavor to develop is this:

1. The Jew lives among us in the modern world as the witness to us that it is possible even in these times to organize national communities successfully on the basis and under the absolute regulation of religious ideas.

To be continued.

NOTICE.
THE Tax-payers of Salt Lake City will take notice that the city tax for the year 1871 is overdue, that the notice has been given, and unless said taxes are paid within I shall be under the necessity of collecting the same with cost without further notice as provided by Sec. 11 of an ordinance in relation to assessing and collecting taxes.
JOHN R. WINDER,
City Assessor and Collector,
Office 15, City Hall,
Sept. 15, 1871.

AN ORDINANCE IN RELATION TO ASSESSING AND COLLECTING TAXES.
Sec. 11. The Assessor and Collector shall furnish to each taxpayer a notice of the amount of tax assessed against him and where payable. In case any person neglect or refuse to pay his tax within twenty days from the date of the notice, the Assessor and Collector is authorized and empowered to take and sell enough taxable property, belonging to the delinquent, to pay his tax, with cost of collection.
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