

SINGULAR REVIVAL OF THE HEBREW RACE.

Nothing can be more curious than to observe the periods of elevation and depression in the history of the human family. These alternations are most conspicuous in the progress of the Hebrews, a race so segregated and set apart from the rest of mankind by distinctions of religion, physique and moral attributes that we can never fail to recognize them as a "peculiar people." And in regard to this race it is but quite recently they were considered little better than outlaws in Christian lands. Their teeth were not drawn, indeed, nor were they subject to torture at the discretion of the bold baron in need of gold, as in the earlier days of England's Norman kings. But the fact is strange to our ears, while we recently saw Benjamin Disraeli, a member of this race, at the head of the British Government, that it has been but a few years since the words "on the true faith of a Christian" were stricken out of the oath which every member of the English Parliament has to take previous to assuming his seat.

Everywhere over the world there seems to be a great revival of the Hebrew nationality going forward; and though the children of the tribes may not be restored to the physical Jerusalem in whose walls and benighted streets their faith has its roots, there would seem to be very reasonable indications that they will make the power of their new Jerusalem, their power as a distinctive people, an acknowledged reality in all civilized countries.

Over the financial destinies of Austria, and radiating from Vienna over all Europe, the momentary genius and wonderful combinations of the Rothschild family have built up a power to which both kings and Kaisers have been compelled to pay respect, if not submission. Achille Fould, also of this race, was recently the official organizer of French finance, and in the brothers Pereire had coadjutors of decided ability and of similar faith.

But it is here in the United States, and more especially in the city of New York, that the race claiming Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the founders of their ancestral line are making most rapid progress. Here, under our free institutions, they have no prejudice to contend against, nothing to cramp the full development of their intense and peculiar genius. In the rapidly shifting fluctuations of American commerce and finance their singular foresight and prudence, mixed with boldness, give them a natural ascendancy. Their strong clan feeling of brotherhood of race, moreover, is in their favor, and to-day they may be set down not only as the shrewdest of our daring speculators, but as the largest purchasers of real estate on Manhattan island.

They are thus striking their roots far down among our people and becoming an integral part of our permanent population. Their synagogues are becoming comparatively more numerous than our Christian churches, and their grand synagogue on Fifth Avenue—cathedral, as we would call it—surpasses in beauty of architectural design any religious edifice in this city with which we are acquainted.

It is a little singular, too, to find that while Benjamin Disraeli has been placed at the head of one great party in England—the conservative, or Tory party, of that country—another member of the same race, in the person of August Belmont, is at the head of the conservative, or democratic party here, holding high position as chairman of the National Central Committee. How Mr. Belmont has risen to this position in the councils of the national democracy we need not now discuss. It was a contest in which his wealth could do nothing for him—was, in fact, a drawback, inasmuch as it excited democratic jealousy; and he labored under the further disadvantage of not being "native and to the manor born." Nevertheless, for more than seven years he has sustained himself as the official representative and chief of the regular democratic organization throughout the Union, having first been elected to the National Convention of 1860, and having remained at the head of that committee and in control of its operations during the stormy and costly canvass which resulted nearly four years ago in General McClellan's defeat. Disraeli at the head of the conservatives in England, Belmont at the head of the conservatives in the United States—this, surely was an odd coincidence, to say the least of it; and yet there are more coincidences of the same kind to be remarked.

In the councils of the late Southern confederacy we saw another member of the Hebrew race—Judah P. Benjamin by name—fight his way up steadily and against enormous combinations of opposition to the front rank of that spirited but doomed government. He, too, became leader of the Southern conservatives, as they were called—the men who supported Jefferson Davis, and who stood opposed to the wild schemes of such rebel radicals as desired to hoist the "black flag" at the commencement of the war, and neither to give nor accept quarter in any battles with the forces of the Union. By sheer force of talent and against a mountain of social and other prejudice we find Mr. Benjamin, of Louisiana, grasping place after place in the Confederate Cabinet, until finally he had made himself the acknowledged master of all other influences in the councils of Mr. Davis. Thus we find in the persons of Disraeli, Belmont and Benjamin three great subdivisions of the Anglo-Saxon race have seen fit at different times and in different countries to confide the representations of their conservative interests and opinions—all three being men of Hebrew lineage.

What is to be the result of this Hebrew revival, who can tell? Disraeli, only recently placed in power, has already been buried out of office and suffered a defeat so heavy that nothing but his genius and the persistent courage for which his race is remarkable can extricate his fortunes. Mr. Benjamin, of Louisiana, was utterly routed in his plans for establishing the Confederacy, and is now a fugitive from his native country, practicing law in England. Belmont suffered a serious reverse in the McClellan campaign, and went heavily to the wall, but whether he is to win or again be beaten in the pending campaign against Gen Grant the future only can determine.—N. Y. Herald.

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