THE JEWISH PETITION TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

[From the Kilmarnock Sun.]

Probably the most numerously attended Jewish meeting that has yet been held in Great Britain was that which convened in the Great Assembly Hall, Mile End, London, on Sunday evening, May 25. The vast auditorium was crowded to its utmost capacity by representative Hebrews and a number of non-Jews attracted thither by the interest of the occasion. The purpose of the assemblage was to submit, through Lord Rothschild, a petition to Lord Salisbury, praying for the intercession of the British government on behalf of the Jews in Russia, to enable them to colonize Palestine. There were on the platform Col. Inglesand, Mr. Samuel Montague, M. P., Dr. Hibsch, Mr. Marcus N. Adler, and a number of other leaders among the people of Judah.

Mr. Montague was called to preside, and made an eloquent address, which was loudly cheered. He stated that at one time he favored the emigration of the Jews to the west rather than to the east, to the United States and Canada rather than to Palestine, for he had thought that in a free land like America the Jews might settle without fear of persecution. He had been associated with efforts to carry out this project, and had been gratified at beholding the beneficial effect upon those who had thus emigrated. But with the additional knowledge gained from experience, he had realized that there was enunciated with Hebrew consciousness a feature which could not be ignored or suppressed. This was that the Jewish people considered it a religious duty and privilege to cultivate with their own hands the soil of the Holy Land. The yearning among the Jews for restoration to the land of their fathers was growing stronger than ever. Colonization societies had satisfactorily this unquenchable desire. In Palestine alone could the Jews have peace and contentment. There were many difficulties to overcome to accomplish that result, but the necessities of the hour were such that those difficulties must be surmounted, and he believed the means were at hand. He had consulted with Lord Rothschild and Baron de Hirsch, who had approved of the plan to request the British government to use its good offices, in concert with the other great powers favorably to the Russian Jews, in such a way that the colonization of Palestine would be a possible and practical undertaking.

The R. S. Singer then read the following petition, the English translation being preceded by a Hebrew version:

LONDON, the 23d of May, 1891—1891.

To the Right Hon. the Lord Rothschild,

Chief among the princes of Israel, who lives under the family sway of Her Majesty Queen Victoria:

My Lord—We, the undersigned members and friends of the Society Chovevei Zion, being of Russian and Polish birth, now resident in London, many of us naturalized British subjects, solicit your lordship's good offices to bring the following petition under the notice of the noble premier, the Marquis of Salisbury, who stands first among the rulers of the kingdom.

With grateful hearts we acknowledge that we have found a resting place for the sole of our feet in this island of the sea, and breathe the breath of freedom among a people that loveth justice. For the Word of God is precious in the sight of the inhabitants of the land, that Word which speaks to all who have ears to hear and a heart to understand: Have we not all one Father, hath not one God created us? But happily placed as we are, how can we endure to see the evil that has come upon our people, who are left forsaken in the hand of their enemies, and how can we endure to see the most noble of our kindred!

At this very moment three millions of our brethren in the faith are plunged in the depth of misery. The waters are come in unto their soul; they sink in deep mire, where there is no standing. Their life hangs constantly in doubt before them. Every day brings its burden of fresh sorrows, so that in the morning they say, Would it were evening, and in the evening, Would it were morning! Plague after plague smites them, and the last troubles make the former ones to be forgotten. Buffeted and represented, they are being banded from their habitations and the house of their fathers, where many of them have lived since their birth. They are being driven into the Pale of Settlement, into townships already full to overflowing, with the seed of Israel, only to stumble each man over his fellow, and to perish together in hunger and thirst and nakedness, and the want of all things.

Is there no cure for the wound of the daughter of Zion? In the hour of our tribulation our eyes and hearts turn to the land where our fathers dwell, each one under his vine and under his fig tree. Many of those who are outcasts from the north country yearn to return to the Holy Land. They long to lay stones and to love the dust thereof, and they would deem themselves blessed indeed if they were permitted to till the sacred soil. If at this time the ground is barren to parts, and refuses to yield its produce, we know it is the hand of man that has wrought the evil. The hand of man shall avenge itself. We beseech the governors of this land to help our afflicted and down-trodden brethren, to help them, not with the sword, but with the friendly service it is in their power to render. Let them open their mouth in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. Let them be their advocate with the government of Russia so that it may make their departure easy, and with the government of Turkey that it may enable them to dwell in safety, and acquire possession of a just price of parcels of land for cultivation and for the rearing of cattle, in Palestine and the districts surrounding it. The children of Israel who have prospered in this and other lands will not shut their hand against their poorer brethren. And the restored of Israel will yet. And the hopes that may be formed of them, those that trust in them will not be put to shame. For in all ages, even when their yoke was heaviest, benefits have been mindful bestowed, benefits have been mindful of the wise men's exhortation, My son, fear thou the Lord and the king, and have honored and obeyed the laws of their Rabbis. The law of the land is law for us.

My lord, let not our request be granted us, and who shall say whether we may not be privileged to see with the eye of flesh what the inspired seer the eye of faith beheld with the eye of a seer of God beheld with the eye of the spirit, that the Lord will comfort Zion? He will comfort all her waste places, and make her desert like Eden, and her wilderness like the garden of the Lord.

Mr. E. H. D'Avigdor advocated the passage of a resolution supporting the petition. He said: There is one reason above all others affecting Palestine which makes it the land to which the Jews will turn, and that is because it is their own land, their mother land. America may be more promising, and contain more opportunities for gaining wealth, but it is not their own land. Besides, it is farther off even than Russia from Palestine, and they wish to go nearer, and not farther away. In Palestine the Jews will observe the Sabbath as the sabbath of the land, the holydays as the holydays of the land. The idea of the present is the colonization of Palestine by Russian Jews, but there will not be alone, for there are numbers of Jews in England who will gladly embrace the opportunity of going to Palestine. There are not alone among the poor, but there are also those among the wealthy who would realize their possessions and accompany the first colony which proceeds to Palestine in the line of that consummation hoped and prayed for by the truly devout among Jews everywhere, and one to be worked for until it shall come to be achieved.

Col. Goldsmid and Messrs. S. Singer, Herman Landau and Joseph Prag also strongly supported the resolution, which was passed without a dissenting vote, amid considerable applause, and the meeting dispersed.

A Correction.

Hilton Deseret News:

A native of Stockholm, as alleged, sends me a letter complaining that in my lecture of last Sunday evening, in the Theatre, I used an "expression" that "was as inach to the Scandinavian nation."

The alleged expression seems to have been a supposed allusion to the "Ignoramus" of the Scandinavians.

Colonization societies should not satisfy this unquenchable desire. In Palestine alone could the Jews have peace and contentment. There were many difficulties to overcome to accomplish that result, but the necessities of the hour were such that those difficulties must be surmounted, and he believed the means were at hand. He had consulted with Lord Rothschild and Baron de Hirsch, who had approved of the plan to request the British government to use its good offices, in concert with the other great powers favorably to the Russian Jews, in such a way that the colonization of Palestine would be a possible and practical undertaking.

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