

that never before, since the time of the close of the Jewish dispensation, have so many persons claimed to be the second Person in the Godhead. It may well be assumed, even if one reasons from analogy only, that we are approaching a change of equal importance to the world at large as that of the destruction of Jerusalem was to the Jews. The thought forces itself upon the mind of the believer; for "All these things are the beginning of sorrows."

The warning to all men is, not to believe or be misled by persons who come crying "lo, here," and "lo, there." The appearance of Christ is not in the manner taught by these pretenders. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be." There is no need of looking for Him in the desert, nor in the obscure chambers. When He comes it will be in glory. But the very appearance of the many false spirits is an indication that preparations are being made for the real advent of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

JEWISH SETTLEMENTS.

The Jewish colonization scheme in the Argentine republic under the auspices of Baron Hirsch is attracting attention on account of the great success it has met with, and the socialistic principles to which this success partly is due.

The enterprise was undertaken as a means of relief to the thousands of Jews who were crowded out of Russia by the edicts of the czar. A committee selected for the purpose recommended suitable families as settlers, and at present the colonists amount to 6,306, most of whom are from the southern parts of Russia. Practical men are superintending the work of the settlers, and they have already brought 17,250 acres under cultivation, with the prospects of an abundant harvest.

The sum invested by the Hirsch fund amounts to \$2,200,000, and this capital is represented in the municipal government of the colonists. As soon as a colony is formed, a council is appointed consisting of three members, two of whom are elected by the settlers and one by the manager of the fund. This council meets every day and decides upon what work is to be done by each colonist. It regulates the distribution of the machinery and deals with matters of transport, building and the public health. It receives the produce and distributes it to each individual according to his contribution of labor. With these principles carried out in every detail, it is not surprising that great success should be achieved; and the eulogistic reports sent by colonists to their friends in other parts of the world will readily be believed.

The Jews gathering in Palestine and settling in the agricultural colonies in that country are meeting with great success, too. Nothing in the whole country is more striking to the traveler than the glaring contrast between the old villages of the natives and the new settlements of the Jews. The former are mere mud huts surrounded by filth and debris and neglected

fields and apologies for orchards, while the latter stand as oases in the gloomy desert, inviting and smiling upon the stranger from beneath the luxurious shading leaves of a semi-tropical vegetation, made more inviting still by the application of industry and genius. What the Jews are capable of doing in the way of cultivating the soil, when properly guided and supported, is perhaps nowhere more apparent than in their settlements on the southern slope of Mount Carmel. It seems, then, that the result is equally satisfactory in the old world and the new.

To ascribe this notable success to a certain system of government alone as the true cause of it would be a fallacious conclusion. Nothing can account for it except the interference of Providence. To the Ruler of nations it is due that the people long scattered on the surface of the earth are beginning to assemble and achieve a success that will ultimately result in their being acknowledged as one of the leading nations of the world. Their gathering on this continent—the land of Joseph—and in the country of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, is no accident, but clearly a part of the great, divine plan for bringing that people to a fulfilment of their final destiny.

A WHOLESOME AND EXCELLENT PLAN.

Of talk and even of schemes of charity there has been no end during the past twelvemonth; from Sunday rabbit hunts all up the scale of expedients to the plan for national pawnshops the ingenuity of man has ranged, in the endeavor to effect real help for the needy and to tide over the dire emergency into which the whole world seems to have simultaneously come. Many of the plans resorted to have been worthy and effective; and the best of them have been such as started out with the idea of letting the recipients earn what they got, not insulting their proper self-respect by making them dependents on donations—helpless paupers living on sheer charity. Nathan Straus, the well known New York merchant, is one whose beneficence has taken a most practical turn; the recent closing of the place where he has been operating it makes present mention of it timely and interesting. He has been running a store on Grand street, New York, where coal, sugar, coffee and tea, bread and flour have been sold at cost to the poor all winter. Five-cent tickets were sold at the door and in the store exchanged for small packages of the commodities, and the same articles were sold in larger quantities at the same rates. On the last day of the store's operation, 27,440 of these five-cent tickets were sold and exchanged for goods, and over 400 loaves of stale bread were sold at one cent a loaf in four minutes after the store opened. Since December 30, when the store began business, there have been thus disposed of more than 6,000 tons of coal and 218 tons of sugar, with 333,000 pounds of bread, 235,000 pounds of flour, 76,000 pounds of tea and 52,000 pounds of coffee. The charitable part of this

scheme lay in the fact that the dealer was willing to forego all profits; and it further involved charity of the highest order in that it helped those who were helping themselves, and made the scanty, hardtimes income of many a poor family go twice as far as it otherwise would in providing food and fuel. When the list of human benefactors comes to be made up, we venture to say the name of Nathan Straus will be found upon it in plain and conspicuous characters.

QUORUM-COUNTING NOT PATENTED.

A great deal of badinage back and forth has been indulged in over the acceptance by the Democratic majority in the national House of Representatives of a plan very like Speaker Reed's quorum-counting rule. The Republicans laugh at the discomfiture of their opponents, who, after trying in vain to muster a sufficient force to proceed with business, were at last compelled to adopt the plan for which, in the Congress before the last, such furious, malediction was heaped upon the Shakespearean head of the Maine chieftain. The Democrats, on their part, make wry faces while trying to point out that the rule now adopted is radically different from the odious plan of the czar-like Speaker three or four years ago, in that the House itself, and not its presiding officer, does the counting. The difference in fact amounts only to that between tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum; the object in either case being to compel members actually present and determined not to vote, to be recorded as present for the purpose of making a quorum to transact business.

The new rule reads as follows:

Upon every roll call and before the beginning thereof, the Speaker shall name two members, one from each side of the pending question if practicable, who shall take their places at the clerk's desk, to tell the names of at least enough members who are in the House during the roll call, who do not respond, when added to those responding, to make a quorum. When a quorum does not respond upon a roll call, then the names of those so noted as present shall be reported to the Speaker, who shall cause the list to be filed at the clerk's desk and recorded in the journal; and in determining the presence of a quorum to do business, those who voted, those who answered as present, and those so reported as present shall be considered. Members noted when their names are called may record their votes notwithstanding the provisions of clause one of this rule.

Mr. Reed simply went ahead on his own responsibility and counted enough filibusterers to help the House out of the deadlock into which dilatory tactics had forced it; he assumed to determine, without the aid of the House or any of its members or employees, whether a quorum was present or not. The Democratic plan of meeting the same problem is by the aid of tellers, whose enumeration and eyes shall determine the necessity of counting silent members as present, and how many of them. But as the Speaker appoints the tellers, the whole power and responsibility appears to resolve itself back, as Mr. Reed without any red tape or formally resolved it, into the