

The Deseret Weekly.

PUBLISHED BY

THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . \$2.50.

Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50.
IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, . . . EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . October 12, 1889.

JEWS IN JERUSALEM.

THE following significant article on the situation in Palestine as it relates to the gathering of the Jews is taken from the *Christian Standard*, published in Cincinnati:

"One of the facts of the times is the remarkable increase of the Jewish population of Jerusalem. Centuries ago, Judæa was swept as clean of the hated race as was possible, and for centuries past no pains were spared to keep it clean of them. The number of Jews residing in the land of their fathers was next to nothing; while a rigid rule as to the length of temporary sojourn kept it from increasing. Thus, not long ago the maximum period of residence was three weeks. But the Turkish government, yielding to the modern spirit and to the pressure of the European powers, has relaxed its iron grasp until, whatever the formal rule may be, Jews now go and come, and reside in Palestine including the Holy City, like other people.

Responding to causes that have not as yet been very fully explained, Jews have improved their new opportunity until the increase of their number in Jerusalem and other parts of the country is attracting universal attention. The very intelligent correspondent of the *Cleveland Leader* tells us, in a late letter written on the ground, that fifty years ago there were in Jerusalem only thirty-two families, and only 3,000 Jews in all Palestine, while today there are nearly 50,000 in the country, and three-fourths of the population of Jerusalem is made up of them. They are engaged in business, and control a large part of the trade of the Holy City.

"What are the causes of this influx of population to a land that is by no means inviting has not been made very clear. The correspondent just mentioned says the persecution of the Jews by the Austrian and Russian governments is one cause. Many Polish Jews resort thither. 'Some of them,' he says, 'feel that the day when the prophecy of the Bible, that they shall again inhabit the land, shall be fulfilled, is at hand,' and he mentions, in particular, a tribe claiming descent from Gad, dwellers in Yemen, Arabia, for 2,500 years, that 'claims to have received a revelation that they must leave their desert country and come back to Palestine. They are bringing with them many valuable old manuscripts which prove their origin,

and not a few of them are engaged in agriculture near Jerusalem."

It would not be surprising if this strange movement—especially if it should be accompanied by a development of fanaticism—were attended by unlooked-for results. It seems certain that some light will be thrown on the state of the Jewish mind as to a national reestablishment in the land of their fathers. Formerly, this was an article of religion; but rationalism has sadly weakened the ancestral faith of the Jews, particularly the better educated and more progressive. It is hard to say just what the Jewish mind on this point is. But the new developments are certain to attract increasing attention, unless they come to a sudden end. Christians will be sure to resort to the prophecies to see just what they do say concerning a return of Israel to Canaan.

The foregoing furnishes a strong testimony to the truth of the Latter-day Saints' doctrine concerning the gathering of the Jews to the land of their fathers. This is to form one of the prominent features of the Latter-day dispensation. In the revelation of the Gospel to Joseph Smith a commandment was given to preach this Gospel of the Kingdom to all nations, first unto the Gentiles and then unto the Jews. This divine injunction has been repeated, and the Elders commissioned to warn the world have been told, again and again, that their mission was not only to the nations of the Gentiles but afterward "to the Jews also."

The land of Palestine has been dedicated and consecrated, by Elders sent there under special revelation, for the gathering place of Judah. No direct and particular effort has yet been made by this Church toward the conversion of that race to the principles of the Gospel of Christ, because the appointed time has not yet come. But that it is near at hand is evident from the progress of events which were predicted by prophets of old. The Book of Mormon speaks very clearly of the time when "the Jews, which are scattered, shall begin to gather in upon the face of the land;" and the restoration shall take place, which was spoken of by the Hebrew prophets.

This was to be consequent upon the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and the preaching of the Latter-day Gospel to the Gentiles. That Book has been presented to the world in many languages. The Elders have published the Gospel in many nations. The Gentiles have been warned. For more than half a century the message of mercy has been proclaimed in their midst. The signs of

the times give token that the "fulness of the Gentiles" has nearly "come in." They are hardening their hearts against the truths revealed from on high, and their "times" are nearly fulfilled."

Then will occur the withdrawal of the word of the Lord and the ministrations of his servants among them, and the opening of the Gospel again to the Jews. The chief result will be the gathering to the Holy Land which all the leading Hebrew prophets predicted. The masses of the colonists in Judæa will be unbelievers in Jesus of Nazareth. But there will be some among them who will be convinced of his Messiahship, and others who will be partly converted, and the spirit of gathering will be upon the race wherever scattered. Every word spoken by the Holy Ghost through the prophets will come to pass.

The events foretold by the Prophet Joseph Smith are occurring with startling fidelity to his words. Those who are looking for their fulfilment must be impressed with the rapidity and exactness of their realization. Truly he was possessed of no common inspiration and foresight, and though the world may not perceive the truth and importance of his sayings "the wise will understand" and give Lord the glory.

Among the most important of the great occurrences which will bear witness to his divine mission will be the movement of the Jews to the land of their ancestors, and the reestablishment of their kingdom and power preparatory to the personal advent of the Son of David, Jesus the Messiah, who will reign in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and eventually be recognized as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

TRAMPLING ON PERSONAL RIGHTS

THE report of the Utah Commission to the Secretary of the Interior, a synopsis of which has been furnished by the Associated Press and which we have already reviewed, is being noticed by the newspapers and will no doubt be widely commented upon.

The *Springfield Republican*, referring to the suggestion of the Commission as to the adopting of the Idaho test oath infamy, says:

"So long as Congress aims at the immoral practices of Mormons it will be on safe ground. Beyond that a policy of repression is perilous."