The March of the Jews.

Some judge the grandeur of a nation by the extent of its dominions, and the number of its great castles; but this is not an infallible test of greatness; for history shows us that such nations are not always the greatest, nor do they leave the greatest effect upon the world.

In the southwestern corner of Syria, is a country small in extent, not over one-hundred and fifty miles long and fifty miles wide, known as Palestine, the home of the Hebrews or Jews. Of all the nations of the world, this nation has the most wonderful history. From the earliest time to the Christian era, it may be traced like the course of a mighty river. Even then, when their national existence is broken up, they are not lost among the nations; but still are like the river which kept the color of its waters favorable to the open sea. As a writer says, "When little more numerous than a family, they had their language, custom..."
and peculiar observances, treated with piety and in very respect as a nation. Though broken as if interruptions and scattered throughout all climes among the rudest and the most civilized nations, they have preserved through thousands of years, common features, habits, and observances, common religion, literature, and a sacred language. From age to age and from land to land, they have been forced and driven by their fellow men, from everywhere of need. They glide amidst the shifting of nations, always the victims of strange hostility. It is the marvel of history that this little people, beleaguered and despised by all the earth, ever maintained its characteristics unimpaired.

Reduced to slavery by the Egyptian, Persian, and Roman rulers, the persecutions of the Jews began. But in this state they were not destined to languish long. The task-masters, written by the hand of Moses and the Children of Israel are delivered into the promised
land, they rise to be a great nation. Jerusalem became beautiful, and the fame of the wisdom and magnificence of Solomon spread throughout the world. But the fall of this grandeur is near, soon they are divided by internal discord. Israel is swept away by the Assyrians and shortly Judah which resisted the Assyrians is carried into captivity by the Babylonians. Again they are reduced to slavery, but only to rise again. For as Nineveh had fallen before Babylon, Babylon was to fall before Cyrus. Once more the Jews are restored to their native land, and they evidence panemits former grandeur. With a touching vitality the little handful that was left to return, soon develop a new Palestine.

Through all their hard experiences their feeling of nationality had not been all abated, and again they confront the hostile world. While they thrived under
the rule of Alexander the Great, they received oppression at the hands of his successors. Jerusalem was destroyed and the temple defiled with pagan worship.

But again they were to rise. Under the leadership of Mattathias and Maccabaeus, struggle for national existence was begun. Once more the foreign yoke was thrown off and national independence was enjoyed for the last time by the Jews. But peace was not enduring to them. The iron hand of Rome was soon felt. Jerusalem was besieged. The city razed to the ground, and its people dispersed throughout every country of the world. Thus the Jews bid farewell to their home.

Does the case of the Jews end here? Not so.-piece as their struggles were, and as nearly exterminated as they were by the Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Syrians, and Romans, they have long outlived these foes and as it is said, "they might well boast..."
that the vengeance of Heaven has fallen upon these persecutors. Long before this, the Jews were found in every known country of the globe. Their wanderings had commenced as early as the Babylonian captivity. Alexander the Great found Jewish culture and energy in every country of the day. Their faces had became well known in Rome, and they had penetrated with the legions into Spain and Gaul. Unlike their neighbors, they flourished in every climate of the world.

In the first few centuries of Christianity, the Jew lived on the friendliest terms with the Christians, and it was at a later age that they were to be held guilty of the crucifixion. They were received as brothers and honorably established in all civilized lands. But the time was soon to come when at the hands of the western nations the Jew was to receive the fiercest persecution man has ever seen. Gradually
the feeling of contempt was growing toward the Jews until all semblance of unity was lost. The hand of fate had written Rome, but it would seem only to make room for a new foe. So then came the Northern Barbarians, and with a half-savage Christianity, knelt in Jerusalem and cursed its gifted founders. The Papal Church arose and man's only object seemed to be to persecute the Jews. Three inquisitors, Spain, saintly kings in France, English monks and German bishops fastened their rediction on the hated race. Their savagery deepened to the lowest abyss, and cries for mercy were heard on every side.

First they were exiled from England, then the land where commerce and refinement was planted by them in the day of the Saxon kings. Here their indomitable race had accumulated immense wealth, only to have it taken from them by cruel exact-
vast. They try to defend in peace but thousands are forced to a watery grave in the turbid Thames.

In France they have reached a greater prosperity but only to meet a great fall. We knowed in the sixteenth century they begin a period of progress. Schools and libraries are established wealth comes into them the natural product of careful industry. Their fall was near. The wealth that they had painfully accumulated through age of toil was running from them, and they were driven from the kingdom. France was the sower and soon invited them back. But peace was short. They were robbed and massacred and again driven from its boundaries. Oh, how they return and France rise under their intelligent industry. The third time they are banished, nor to return with perfect freedom until the stormy revolution was swept away their persecutors.

But it is in Spain where the
Jew reaches the highest culmination, to fall at the bloody hands of his persecutors. Here they established libraries and endowed colleges that filled Europe with intelligences. Their physicians were sought for to heal European kings. Their wealth eclipsed that of all other nations. But soon the Jews were to leave all this. Spain falls into the power of the Catholic kings. Inquisitions are established and used with unrelenting vigor on the Jews. Where they established colleges they see their forcible place of human use. Queen Isabella culminates their sorrows by ordering their expulsion from their luxurious homes. Once more they go forth to seek some unknown refuge. Their sorrows are unparalleled. At last they receive hope. The reformation comes to their rescue, and slowly the natural rights of men to live on the same earth uninterfered with by each other war acknowledge...
But the Jews did not spring in a moment from their depression and persecutors. Although the massacres and fierce bodily tortures are things of the past, yet to this day in some secluded places in many places they are subject to insult and hardships. In America, where the Jews were offered the first peaceful and happy home, public opinion has not yet reached the point "where it absolves the race from the sin of the individual." It is but a short time since their political disabilities were removed in England. In Italy, it takes but the report that the Jews have murdered a Christian child to cause the massacre of a dozen Jews. It is said that they are exposed to injustice more in proportion to the barbarity of the nation which surrounds them. What a melancholy and disgraceful fact in these enlightened times! That Ruz...
Asia has renewed her restriction on the Jews. Here they are forced to live in certain districts, excluded from schools and colleges, restricted to certain mercantile occupations, forbidden to own real estate, and no Jew can become an officer in the army or civil service.

But in spite of all this the Jew still rises. During all their early persecutions they had not neglected their mental culture, and their intellects have remained clear and active, eager for knowledge, laborious in study and fruitful in production. They were poets, musicians, scholars, and thinkers when the rest of the world was a wilderness. Education was their stepping-stone to all success. "A few decades of freedom" says Johann Jacob "will suffice to efface the inherited trace of an oppression lasting thousands of years." The saying is that the intellect of any people must of necessity do
line with years, that the race had their seasons of progress and decay, but the Jews whose ancestors guided the policy of Egypt and Babylonia may be found equally active and valuable in modern states and nations. It was because they were educated to industry, meekness, docility, and order, that they survived the persecutions of priests and kings, and have beheld the destruction of all their foes. In the words of Homer, it seems as if we are to be flayed to the walls by all conquering Davidites, that the money power is falling into their hands, and political power is following; that he is in fact seizing up the best places in every country; that the time is at hand when the Jew, with all his haughtiness of race is to grapple the headship of the world.

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