

PLEA FOR ZIONISM.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

After reading in your valued paper the sermon of the Rev. Dr. Silverman on "Zionism," I would ask of you to grant me permission to write a few words in answer.

First, he says "Zionism is based on a feigned, fictitious, or imaginary love of Zion. Why should I love Zion, which I know not and where I have never been. * * * I have every reason to love America more than Palestine."

In answer I would say: Does Dr. Silverman represent the 6,000,000 Jews in Russia, 300,000 in Roumania, and the 1,000,000 in Galicia? Do they enjoy the liberties that he does in America? Would America or England be willing to allow them to emigrate to their shores? Why should the Doctor exert himself in their behalf? So long as he himself enjoys all the liberties and privileges of our American free institutions but forgets that, every one will consider him as merely selfish. Shall we repudiate and withhold our hand from those who have found a less happy termination to our common misfortune? If we are no longer called upon to suffer for our principles, yet we have not ceased to maintain those principles, and through them we are closely related to these martyrs and outcasts.

Then he continues to say: "Abraham left his father's house, his city, and his country, not to form a new nation, but to preach a new religion, and such was the conception of Moses and the prophets." Let us see. God said to Abraham, "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing" (Genesis, xii., 2.) "And the Lord said unto Abraham * * * lift up now thine eyes and look from the place where thou art northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all this land which thou seest, to thee will I give it and to thy seed forever" (Genesis, xiii., 14-15.)

And after this promise Abraham, being childless, wanted to be sure that God would establish a nation. He said: "Lord God, what will thou give me, seeing I go childless. * * * Behold, to me thou hast given no seed" (Genesis, xv., 2-3.) The Lord answered: "I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees to give thee this land to inherit it," (Genesis xv., 7,) and Abraham, not believing Him, asked: "Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?" (Genesis xv., 8.) And as we know, the Lord has proven it.

Therefore we see that Abraham's mission was not only to preach his religion, but to establish a nation for his offspring. As to the prophets, let the doctor take the trouble to read through Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and all the other prophets, and he will see that every word uttered was for the re-establishment of the Jew's nation. Further he says: "Zionism seeks to reverse the trend of 2,000 years—the march of Israel westward. I believe Israel will continue to assimilate the Occidental life and will only find its way back to the Orient via the Pacific Ocean." What does the doctor mean by "to assimilate the Occidental"? Is it their religion, Christianity, or the different improvements of their modern civilization? If it is Christianity, let him say frankly, "Let us embrace Christianity," instead of preaching Christianity in our synagogues and saying "We will convert the Christians to Judaism." Is it the modern improvement of our civilization, securing a home for the oppressed? Can't we make Palestine modern at once, instead of going around the world, and trying to convert China, India, and all other countries in Asia to Judaism?

The world must appeal to Judaism instead of Judaism appealing to the world. We are no missionaries! For it is written, "From Zion goes forth the law and the word of God from Jerusalem."

In conclusion he says, "A Jewish State would create greater evils than had been hoped it would remove. The cure would be worse than the disease. * * * Zion would contain not the flower of Israel, but the dregs of the masses." Did the Puritans of England, the Huguenots of France, when they emigrated to America when the country was barren and wild, did they ask whether we will succeed or not? They went to work with soul and body through all hardships, and now we see the result. They established one of the most powerful nations of the earth. What is America to-day in comparison to the time of the Puritans? The same thing could be done with Palestine by the Jews. We must admit at the beginning it is difficult, but what can the future bring?

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