

But many Jews deprecate the idea of a condominium, the risks and failures of which have been experienced elsewhere, and claim that the protectorate must be single. Great Britain and the United States have each been named as the Power most desirable in the circumstances, British Jews and in particular the British Palestine Society strongly pleading for the former. Their phrase is "a free nationality within the British Empire"; their reasons, that free nationalities, prosperous and contented, already exist within that Empire—the Jewish would only be one more.

To complete this account of Jewish opinion it is necessary to add that some Zionists also appeal to British interests. They seek to show that the Judæan plateau is "the needed bulwark of the Suez Canal," "the outer bastion of Egypt," and that "the natural buffer-state to Egypt is Palestine."

Such are the aspirations of the Zionists and the plans of some of them. How do they bear upon the existing facts of the situation?

Religious Questions

We may take first the religious facts, though, except in one respect, that of the holy places, the religious facts are not the most difficult or acute. Were Jewish influence, social and political, to become predominant in Palestine—if only through sheer force of numbers—I do not think it would prove intolerant to other creeds. Delicate and even dangerous as the relations of religions have always been in Syria, and fanatic against other faiths as fractions of the Jewish population might prove to be, the general spirit of the modern race is tolerant, and with international guarantees for religious liberty, can be trusted to subdue the passion or arrogance of groups of its own people.

The particular question of the sacred places is more dangerous; it will always be difficult whatever race or