

of some brother Jew, where he is sure to be at least kindly received, with permission to remain as long as he thinks proper. The temptations to remain long, however, are not great. As the guest cannot be accommodated with a bed, he contents himself with a bundle of straw, or the softest plank on the not very cleanly floor. An old ragged, dirty cloak, apparently bequeathed by an ancestor, forms his only covering, in addition to his own clothing, though in winter what was once a fur is generally added. He creeps under the straw, in which he completely buries himself, lying in it doubled up like a pen-knife. In the morning he receives a portion of whatever refreshment the family can afford themselves, and then continues his journey in the search of a bargain, until the setting

or travelling pedlar, as in our picture. He will do anything for gain—except what the law forbids.

Formerly the Jew was excluded from the privilege—and what a privilege it is!—of entering the army, and death was his punishment if he was discovered to be an agent of the army contractor. Experience has taught the authorities wisdom, and they have discovered that the Jew makes an excellent soldier, and many a Jewish officer may now be found in the Russian forces. It is undeniable that in the Russian army the Jews are the best musicians, having, it would seem, a special excellence in martial music. Most of the prohibitions which formerly excluded them from the civil service are now repealed, and the least that can be said to their credit is that they



sun again reminds him of the necessity of seeking shelter and repose.

In their ordinary conversation the Polish Jews use a dialect which seems to be a mixture of German and Russian—a dialect which they call Hebrew-German. Socially they become all things to all men; the means they use are multifarious, but money is usually the end. Wherever a living can be extracted they are sure to appear, and hence seem to have the gift of ubiquity.

To the Polish Jew nothing comes amiss. He finds purchasers for "concerns" in the grocery, haberdashery, or academical line; he lends money, or, when he has none, finds the man who will provided a good and sure interest can be secured he farms milk-walks, and makes contracts with the Crown; he clothes and victuals the army; he is a broker, a commission agent, a tradesman, a merchant, a builder, and a land-agent—

generally give their superiors more satisfaction in that service than their Christian colleagues, who despise them.

Many of the Polish Jews have worked their way to wealth and influence, and their wives do their best to show how much they can afford to spend on finery and parade. They keep stately equipages, wear costly jewels, give extravagant dinners, and marry their daughters to the wealthy sons of Israel. But with all their love of show, they do not forget the cultivation of the intellect of their children, who are generally well educated. On the whole, the Jews of Poland may be said to be worthy of our kindest sympathies; and let us hope that they may be won over to the truth by the gentle teachings of the blessed gospel of the true Messiah, the ready Saviour both of Jews and Gentiles.