

Slavists are bent on stamping out, is more or less continually reënforced. In 1844 the Czar Nicholas candidly admitted to Sir Moses Montefiore that the accusations levelled at the Russian Jews would not, for the most part, hold water, but he expressed his wish frankly to get them all out of the empire.

In 1891 Germany, which in 1844 was the vassal, has become the rival, of Russia. The policy of Prince Bismarck was to encourage the court chaplain, Stocker, and other German fanatics into a "Jew-baiting" in Germany, which should drive more Jews out of Germany into Russia, and thereby strengthen the subterranean connections between the Russian Empire and central Europe. Since the retirement of Prince Bismarck the Russian Pan-Slavists, who are preparing to Russianize eastern and central Europe in due time, have set on foot a "Jew-baiting" among the Slavonic nations and tribes. They are willing, as were the Russian authorities in 1844, that the Jews should prosper—but not in Russia! In 1844 Count Kisseleff civilly, but cynically, assured Sir Moses Montefiore that he cared not what became of the then existing generation of Jews. "In a century," he said, "the Jews may be educated and good Russians. But I do not care about the Jews now. I only care about the Jews of a century hence!"

Can the Jews of to-day be blamed for caring for themselves? When, in 1561, Cardinal Comendoni went as nuncio from the Pope to King Sigismond, of Poland, he found the Jews of Wilna enjoying equal rights with other Poles. He found them landed proprietors, wearing swords, holding public offices, and he loudly praises—he a Catholic and a cardinal coming from the city of the Ghetto—the system under which the Polish children of Israel were thus enabled to show themselves what their ancestors were in the Holy Land at the time of the Roman Conquest,—tillers of the soil as well as traders, valiant in arms, skilful in the arts, and equal to all the duties of civilization. Even to this day the traces of that better age are visible in the superiority of the Jews of Wilna to their brethren in adjoining circles of the Russian Empire.

When we see what great work the Jews of Europe have done despite the depressing influence of ages of restriction, injustice, and oppression, what may not be hoped from the Jews of America! That the Jew is by nature as well fitted for the du-