

For Dominion Presbyterians.

The Jews.

By ISRAELITE INDEED.

The Jews in their origin had a good start. Their founder was a man of unwavering faith, great piety, noble sacrifice and unquestioning obedience, so much so that these traits in Abraham's character have been the examples for all succeeding generations. His piety obtained for him the title "Friend of God"; his faith, that of "Father of the Faithful"; his sacrifice was a type of the greatest sacrifice; and his obedience is an acknowledged pattern for all ages. Abraham was exalted of God to be the medium whereby our degenerate and fallen race should be restored to the divine favor, and he received the promise that in his seed all the world should be blessed. The name of Abraham is the most widely known of all human names, for whilst the name of Christ is the greatest, and "a name above every name," so far in the world's history it is revered only by those who are His worshippers, whilst the name of Abraham is acknowledged by Jews, Mahometans and Christians alike. With all his greatness and goodness, Abraham was not free from blemishes of character. His Egyptian experiences show how weak even strong men can become under trying circumstances and when living apart from God.

So much for the origin of the Jews, who through "faithful Abraham" were the chosen people of God and through whom The Christ, the Messiah of God, in the "fullness of time" should come.

It is no part of this article to trace the history of these highly favored people, suffice it to say that between the time of Abraham and the advent of Moses, a period of nearly 500 years, the descendants of Abraham had increased to such an extent that when Moses led them forth out of the land of Egypt they were a nation two millions strong. The history of this wonderful and divinely preserved people can be summed up in few words thus—blessed of God, falling from grace or backsliding, and restoration to divine favor. When they were faithful to God they were blessed and prosperous, when they forsook Him, calamity and punishment overtook them.

The Jews frequently lapsed into idolatry. It is a significant fact that their seventy years captivity in Babylon cured them of this weakness for idol worship, for since that period they have never forsaken the God of their fathers and their Mosaic form of worship, though they have not as a people acknowledged their long looked for Messiah; and to-day they are the most wonderful race on the face of the globe and though scattered among all nations they retain their national and personal identity and are in all places nations within nations preserving their peculiar characteristics and their social and religious habits and customs.

The Jewish race has produced men of exceptional ability in most branches of knowledge. Moses is unique as a lawyer; David, the King, as a religious poet; Solomon as a great, wise and successful king; Joshua is distinguished for generalship; Elijah and Daniel for true heroism and moral courage; Isaiah for prediction—anticipating history, and for an elevated

literary style that no subsequent writer has equaled much less surpassed. The Apostle Paul stands pre-eminent for learning and deep acumen.

The Jews have ever stood high among the leading financiers of the world and every nation is under obligation to them in this respect. But with all their grasping after money, there have been among them some of the most benevolent of mankind. They are however narrow in their prejudices, and limit their ideas almost exclusively to themselves, though the greatest Jew, Jesus Christ, was the broadest and the most world-wide in His teachings and His expositions of the character and mind of God.

They are still, as they have ever been, a peculiar people. They have given to the world, in detail, little science, art, and literature, and yet, what they have given, the scriptures, has been the inspiration and seed-germ out of which has developed the highest art and literature.

Through these Jews the Redeemer of the world came, and it looks like a sad irony of fate that the Messiah so long expected by them should have to be declared to them by those whom they despised—the uncircumcised Gentiles. It shows the gracious and magnanimous spirit of Christianity that the religion the Jews rejected and to whom it was first offered and the people whom they in their narrow prejudices would exclude should so earnestly importune them to accept the Messiah so long foretold by their inspired prophets.

Where Jews are found there Christians make special efforts to bring them within the fold of the Good Shepherd. In London, England, there is a society for promoting Christianity among the Jews and its branches are world wide. In every centre of population where Jewish colonies exist there is planted a Christian Missionary. The society has an annual income of about \$200,000 which is spent in circulating the New Testament, Religious Tracts and Literature, paying agents' salaries and other expenses. That the society is doing much good is beyond question. It undertakes not only spiritual but does medical work. It seeks to save adults and not overlook the children, for within its organization there is "The children's Bee-Hive for Israel." They have also what is called "Jerusalem Hospital." Thus the society seeks to follow in a practical way the example of Jesus when He was upon earth, by trying to heal all manner of diseases among the people.

It is to the credit of the Episcopal Church in Canada that they are the most active among the various denominations to extend this Christian work among the Israelites, and are the largest contributors to the funds of the general society.

The names of the missionaries is a clear indication of their nationality. Converted Jews seem largely to hold these positions. This is true policy, for prejudice is overcome to a large extent and people will listen to those of their own race when they would turn a deaf ear to others.

I close with the prayer that the time may soon come when the Jewish national blindness may be removed and their eyes may be open to see Him who is "The

Light of the World" and who pleads constantly and earnestly, "Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life."

My Brother's Keeper.

Whittier writes in one of his poems:

Heaven's gate is shut to him who comes alone;
Save thou a soul, and it will save thee own.

Of course, this is not literally true. The penitent thief was saved, though he was converted too late to be able to try to save anybody else. But there is no better evidence of genuine conversion than the desire and effort to bring others to Christ. The shipwrecked sailor who has been rescued will want to help man the life-boat, in order to rescue the rest of the drowning passengers and crew.—Herald and Presbyter.

Feeding Christ's Flock.

By J. T. WHITMAN.

After Christ had asked Peter the third time, "Lovest thou me?" he said unto him, "Feed my sheep." The admonition to feed the sheep of the Savior is based upon the familiar imagery of the East, which was essentially a country of shepherds. The aphorism or figure here used by Christ is very suggestive. As the shepherds looked after the sheep—protected and led them into green pastures and beside still waters—so Christ, by this "feed my sheep" admonition, would convey to Peter that those who were not of the flock of the household of faith, who were disbelievers in his Messianic mission and resurrection, were to be brought into the fold by feeding them on the blessed truths he promulgated while upon earth. Not only was this admonition intended for Peter, but for all the professed disciples of Christ in all the ages that were to follow.

Religion is not a thing to be laid aside at pleasure; it is a living, breathing issue, a matter which should ever engage the enthusiasm and enlist the constant service of the followers of Christ, at their business—at their homes, when mixing with their fellowmen—in a word, everywhere. We should follow Him as our great Pattern, because His life while upon earth was so worthy of imitation, it was so beautiful, it was one of such kindness, such meekness, such forgiveness, such constant, undoubting trust in the great Jehovah; it was a life in which the holiness of deity was developed into the relationships, duties and trials of humanity. The pattern of His life while among men was indeed a perfect one, and our constant prayer to Him should be: Lord, help us to follow in thy footsteps, to tread only where Thou has trod, never hesitating to go where Thou hast led.—Christian Observer.

Jesus is the great peace-maker. There need be no war with God. The way of peace is open. Fighting against God is extreme folly. It is a hopeless war. And if we should prevail, victory would be worse than defeat. If our Creator could be prevailed on or compelled to yield to man's selfish and sinful desire and will, all order and peace and happiness would vanish from the universe. We must accept His terms.—Rev. J. M. Buckley, D.D.