

populace against the Jews. When the Panama scandals astounded the whole of France and astonished the world, *La Libre Parole* attributed the trouble to certain Jewish bankers, and succeeded in raising a storm of indignation against the people of Israel. Every means was employed—every attempt was made by this paper to arouse the superstitious passions, and salacious tastes of the ignorant masses against the Semites. Even many of the clericals took up the Anti-Semitic cry as a means of stemming the reaction that was setting in against themselves and the church. Politicians endeavored to turn the “have nots” from socialism and to attach them to their own skirts by means of the Anti-Semitic cry. As a result of all this we find that Republican France, with its low social tone, its predatory press, its corrupt political life, has proved to be the ground for a ranker growth of Anti-Semitism than was possible elsewhere in Europe.

After this Drumont and his associates played a new card and a bolder game. They commenced a campaign against the Jewish officers in the French army, declaring that the Jews were not only an alien element, but that they were treacherous to the land of their adoption. These accusers became bolder and announced to their compatriots that by Jews holding offices in the army the whole country was endangered. By this time a very distrustful feeling towards the Jew had been awakened in the public mind in all parts of France. The nerves of *La Belle France* were unstrung and she was ready to go off in one of her periodical hysterics at the proper time of the moon.

This was the state of affairs when Captain Alfred Dreyfus, an officer on the general staff of the French army—an Alsatian Jew—was arrested for high treason. Thus far the crusade of the fire-eating, Jew-hating Drumont had been a sort of fiasco. He required a victim to substantiate his statements with regard to the army: this he found in Captain Dreyfus. On October 29th, 1894, *La Libre Parole* announced that an important arrest had been made for high treason. The following day a secret communication was