

and women in their terror became selfish and cowardly. Under the terrible conditions of their life, the very virtues of the Jews turned to vices. The old Jewish characteristics of steadfastness and prudence and intelligence seemed to take new and lower forms ; for bare life's sake, the loyal, large-minded Jew learned to be narrow and secret and cunning. Money-getting became the one absorbing pursuit of the race, the one ambition of life, the one possible protection against cruel and tortured death. To toil for wealth which they might not openly enjoy, and to passionately believe in a religion which they might not openly confess was the portion of the Jews for centuries."

Is it any wonder that their mental powers were well-nigh destroyed, that the bright days of the schools of learning belong to the past, and that the fair goddess of learning refused to live in the narrow, dark Ghettos where the common rights of humanity were forbidden? They refused to learn the language and literature of their oppressors ; instead, devoting their whole being to the Talmud, the Sayings of the Rabbis, and to the mystic Cabala and Zohar, producing and chanting the quaint "Piyutim," the national, penitential songs of exile, such as :

Destroyed is Zion and profaned,
Of splendor and renown bereft
Her ancient glories wholly waned,
One deathless treasure only left :
Still ours, O Lord,
The Holy Word.

So darkness prevailed.

"As the Christian, so is the Jew" is a German proverb ; thus not only had Christianity waned to its darkest hour when the Reforma-