

no country or city in the world which they have not reached. They have an amazing power of endurance. They have been "scattered and peeled," (Isa 18 2) persecuted in every possible form, deprived of their civil rights, and slaughtered without mercy; they have received in awful measure the answer to their daring prayer, "His blood be on us, and on our children," (Mat. 27-25); and yet, after having suffered enough to exterminate the nation, they are to day as strong as ever, numbering over seven millions. Dr. Benjamin Richardson, F.R.S., Eng., assigns three reasons for this wonderful tenacity of vital power; (1) an innate excess of vital resistance; (2) the observance of the rules of health laid down in the Pentateuch; (3) that the Jews have followed, either under the influence of necessity or from natural prompting, a better life in all that relates to the maintenance of a healthy physical existence.

THE JEWS ARE A PEOPLE MANY OF WHOM HAVE ALREADY BEEN SAVED.

My reference here is exclusively to New Testament times, and the evidence of what is stated is to be found specially in the Acts of the Apostles. One of the most remarkable features of Apostolic times was the rapid growth of the Christian Church at Jerusalem in the very heart of this nation. We know not how many constituted the Church there during the lifetime of our Lord, but, very soon after His ascension we are told that in one day there were added unto them "about three thousand souls." (Acts ii. 41). This was the result of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost in fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel; and the converts we are told embraced "Jews and Proselytes." Further on in the narrative (Acts iv. 4) we learn that "the number of men was about five thousand." This we take, as Dean Alford thinks, to be exclusive of women, who as believers were probably more numerous than men, thus making a total of perhaps ten thousand. Later still (Acts v. 14) the record is, that "believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both men and women."

Now then, taking into account what we read in the Gospels and Epistles, as well as in the Acts, of the success of the truth among this people in other places, may we not safely conclude that the Saviour's prayer on the cross in their behalf was answered, and that large numbers of them were saved during the days of the Apostles?

THE JEWS ARE A PEOPLE WHOSE CONVERSION IS DISTINCTLY FORETOLD AS DESTINED TO QUICKEN GREATLY THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

God's purpose in this respect is clearly revealed. His words are: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplications; and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced." * * * (Zech. xii. 10.) "God hath not cast away his people whom he foreknew." (Rom. xi. 2) "Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid. But, rather, through their fall, salvation is come unto the Gentiles." (V. 11) "For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world: what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead." (Blindness in part happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in: and so all Israel shall be saved." (Vs. 25-26)

The general sense of all this is obvious. There has been a partial and temporary rejection of the people; but God has not finally abandoned them—what happened to them was designed to facilitate the spread of the Gospel among the Gentiles, and designed ultimately to bring about their own restoration, for they are to be brought in with the fulness of the Gentiles, and this is to be as "life from the dead," a most glorious event; "as though a new world had arisen." How so? Let but the Spirit of God descend upon this people and they will consecrate all their admirable qualities and resources to the service of the Gospel, their business tact and energy, their wealth, their indomitable perseverance, and amazing power of endurance, their vast knowledge of the sciences and languages, and especially of the Hebrew Scriptures, and their irrepressible disposition to travel—to go into all the world. Already over five hundred of them are ministers in connection with the various evangelical Churches. In view of all these things, and much more that might be said in their behalf, why are we so slow to do anything for the Jews? Why this guilty silence in pleading God's promises at his throne of grace? Is there no wealthy man among us who will give fifty or sixty thousand dollars to found a mission to this people, a mission for the success of which God's word is specially pledged? Will not the half million of Presbyterians in Canada bring practical pressure to bear on our General Assembly to undertake this work by pouring in their offerings for this purpose even while we have so many other works in hand? We have among us good friends of the Chinese, the Hindoos, the Aboriginal tribes of this continent, and the French people of this Dominion. Are there none to befriend and help the descendants of Abraham?