

and control the small farmers by lending or advancing money to them. I have heard complaints of a similar kind made against the "capitalists" of the eastern United States, in the far West.

In Hungary and the Danubian states similar complaints led, a quarter of a century ago, to a "Juden-hitze," or system of "Jew-baiting," as bitter as any now raging. The object of the system then was to drive the Jews into Russia, that other money-lenders and traders might take their places. Long before this, under Nicholas I., the Russian Government set afoot a persecution of the Jews in western Russia and Poland for the purpose of compelling the Jews along the frontier to remove either into Germany or into the interior of the Russian Empire. The famous "deportation ukase" of April, 1844, excited feelings of sympathy and indignation throughout western Europe. Under it hundreds of thousands of Jews were commanded to sell all they had within a very brief period, and leave their homes forever. The ukase led to an earnest remonstrance from the Jews of England, and to the celebrated visit which Sir Moses Montefiore made in the winter of that year to Russia, where he pleaded the cause of Israel personally before the Czar Nicholas, as some years before he had pleaded the cause of the Jews of Damascus and Syria before the Sultan. The main pretext of the persecutions of 1844 and 1881 was that the Jews along the frontier engaged extensively in smuggling, just as the main pretext of the persecution of 1891 is that the Jews in the rural regions engage extensively in trades not always of an elevated kind, and in money-lending not always on the most liberal principles.

In 1844 and 1881, as in 1891, the real motive at the bottom of the persecution is a political motive. It is the desire of the Pan-Slavist leaders and agitators to expel all non-Slavonic elements out of Russia. The Jews are ready and willing to be Russians. They are not, however, Slavs, nor can they be amalgamated into Slavs. In 1844 Nicholas had Jewish soldiers in his guards, and admitted to Sir Moses Montefiore that they were loyal, brave, and excellent soldiers. In 1891 the removal of the Jews is a blow aimed indirectly, but distinctly, at the Germans. Many of the Jews in western Russia are of German origin. Through the "Kahel" all of them may maintain intimate business relations with the Jews of Germany, and by their existence and prosperity as Jews in Russia the German element in Russia, which the Pan-