

—men, whose cheeks would not mantle with the deceitful hues of a false modesty when particularization of wholesome, sanatory and moral laws were addressed to them in public, while, in private, they would, with brazen brow and unblushing face, outrage every one of these laws, and yet loudly proclaim a refined state of society, as, perhaps, is but too much the case in our day. And that the Hebrew Sanatory Institutions, despite their minuteness of detail, have proved to the nation neither hurtful to body nor baneful to mind, is, we think, evident from various considerations. In the first place, although there now flows in the veins of the Hebrews the blood of the most ancient nation remaining on earth—the same blood which once animated Abraham, Moses, David, and Isaiah,—although the stake has destroyed of them its thousands, and the sword its tens of thousands—although monarchs and legislators, from the days of Pharaoh downwards, have passed enactments for their extermination, forbidding, as is the case even in the present day, their obedience to one of the first laws of nature\*—although found in every country and clime, amidst the snows and ice of a northern, and the burning sun of a southern, latitude,—and although, at all periods of their history, subject to a thousand adverse and destructive influences, yet do they remain a wondrous living problem, the same *undeteriorated*, indestructible race, with the same characteristics everywhere traceable among them, with an eye not less bright than when it was called to witness the lightnings of Sinai's mount, and with a step not less elastic than when it repaired to the Holy Temple which God vouchsafed to make the place of His especial residence ; in short, with the same favourable, energetic, and high organization among the men, and with the same instances of rare attractive beauty among the women. Nor do we find them, in consequence of their sanatory regulations, more subject to diseases, or obnoxious to epidemics of all descriptions, but the contrary ; for it is undeniable that the mass of the nation, who are duly observant of their dietary laws, are remarkably free from certain classes of diseases, particularly those of the skin and the hypochondriac regions ; while, ever since attention has been given to the statistics of epidemics, both in Europe and America, it has been announced as an extraordinary fact, especially during the ravages of Asiatic cholera, that proportionably, the Jewish community have remained in a remarkable degree unscathed under these awful visitations.†

\* In some parts of northern Europe the laws of the State permit only a certain number of Jews to marry.

† During the fatal prevalence of Cholera in London, in 1849, the editor of a leading paper thus writes : " It is a singular circumstance, that throughout the late awful visitation, so few, if any Jews, died of the Cholera in London, *although the majority of them reside in districts where it committed great ravages.*" See also Thanksgiving Sermon of the Rev. D. A. De Sola, of London, for 15th November, 1849. We believe that the authenticated cases did not exceed two, and one of these, personally