

her present state of subjection; which with her children, her citizens, are not only in bondage to the Romans, but in a worse bondage to the law, to its oppressive ordinances, and to the heavy curse which it has pronounced against all those who do not keep them."

I cite this last authority merely to please your correspondent. The time is past when great learning, or high ecclesiastical offices were sufficient to make an opinion pass current with the Christian world.

I hope the views which the Apostle has given us of the subject in the passages quoted, will cause "An Humble Believer" to reconsider the matter, and that he will see reason to change his views respecting the imaginary national conversion of the Jews, however fondly these views may have been cherished and interwoven with his theological notions.

I am, dear Sir, yours, &c.,

J. H.

August 1, 1843.

### "THE CONVERSION OF THE JEWS." LETTER III.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.

SIR,—I hope it has been proved, to the satisfaction of your respected correspondent, that THE NATIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS of the Israelitish people is of a Providential character. First, PRESUMPTIVELY; seeing their case in that respect is without any parallel in the history of nations, "Arabs, Chinese, and Gypsies" not excepted. And secondly, DEMONSTRATIVELY; seeing that peculiarity of their case has long been announced and foretold, even very many centuries ago, by "Holy men of God, who spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

This will further appear from the following syllogism:

Any event which is the subject of Divine prophecy, should certainly be regarded as a Divinely Providential event.

But the preservation of the Jews as a distinct people, is an event which is the subject of Divine prophecy.

Therefore, the preservation of the Jews as a distinct people should certainly be regarded as a Divinely Providential event.

J. H. will, on that account, be so good as REVERSE that condemnatory sentence of his letter, which reads:—"Those who say they are kept distinct by Divine Providence, MANIFESTLY CONTRADICT THE WORD OF GOD!" And, if a little friendly pleasantry were admissible, I would say: His "syllogism," also, which appears to have been placed as an invincible guard around that redoubtable assertion, will be directed to wheel round, and accompany its charge on its retrograde movement into the rear. It must be admitted, that the whole argumentative force came to the attack in gallant style, and with most heroic temper. It was a mere failure of strength, and not of spirit, which occasioned their defeat, and which must not be unnoticed in the official account of the affair.

Not wishing, in point of courtesy, to be behind the worthy commander of the expedition, and in just and generous return for his COMPLIMENTARY allusion to the "REASONERS" on our side, I have enlisted three of his sentinels into our service; and, with "knobs" on their shoulders, they are now "doing duty" as non-commissioned officers in our garrison; viz:—

No. 1. "Those who say the Jews are [NOT] kept distinct by Divine Providence, manifestly contradict the Word of God."

No. 2. "The Gypsies of Europe do [NOT] at the present day present so remarkable a phenomenon in civil life as do the Jews."

No. 3. "Unfortunately for SUCH REASONERS, the Chinese and the Arabs are [NOT] exceptions to this statement."

"The pious and intelligent reader" will be interested and edified by the following Scriptural and truly eloquent remarks on this branch of our subject, from the pen of the learned Doctor Newton, late Lord Bishop of Bristol. It is taken from his eighth Dissertation on the Prophecies, section II.:

"The preservation of the Jews through so many ages, and the total destruction of their enemies, are wonderful events; and are made still more wonderful by being signified beforehand by the spirit of prophecy, as we find particularly in the prophet Jeremiah xlvi. 28: 'Fear thee not, O Jacob my servant, saith the Lord, for I am with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee, but I will not make a full end of thee!'"

"The preservation of the Jews is really one of the most signal and illustrious acts of Divine Providence. They are dispersed among all nations, and yet they are not confounded with any. The drops of rain which fall—nay, the great rivers which flow into the ocean—are soon mingled and lost in the immense body of waters; and the same, in all human probability, would have been the fate of the Jews—they would have been mingled and lost in the common mass of mankind; but, on the contrary, they flow into all parts of the world, mix with all nations, and yet keep separate from all. They still live as a distinct people, and yet they nowhere live according to their own laws, nowhere elect their own magistrates, nowhere enjoy the full exercise of their religion. Their solemn feasts and sacrifices are limited to one certain place, and that hath been now, for many ages, in the hands of strangers and aliens, who will not suffer them to come thither.

"No people have continued unmixed so long as they have done. not only of those who have sent forth colonies into foreign countries, but even of those who have abided in their own country. The northern nations have come in swarms into the more southern parts of Europe; but where are they now to be discerned and distinguished? The Gauls went forth in great bodies to seek their fortune in foreign parts; but what traces or footsteps of them are now remaining any where? In France who can separate the race of the ancient Gauls from the various other people who, from time to time, have settled there? In Spain who can distinguish exactly between the first possessors, the Spaniards, and the Goths, and the Moors, who conquered and kept possession of the country for some ages? In England who can pretend to say with certainty which families are derived from the ancient Britons, and which from the Romans, or Saxons, or Danes, or Normans? The most ancient and honorable pedigrees can be traced up only to a certain period, and beyond that there is nothing but conjecture and uncertainty, obscurity and ignorance.

"But the Jews can go up higher than any nation; they can even deduce their pedigree from the beginning of the world. They may not know from what particular tribe or family they are descended, but they know certainly that they all sprung from the stock of Abraham. And yet the contempt with which they have been treated, and the hardships which they have undergone in almost all countries, should, one would think, have made them desirous to forget or renounce their original. But they profess it—they glory in it; and after so many wars, massacres, and persecutions, they still subsist, they still are very numerous. And what but a supernatural power could have preserved them in such a manner as none other nation upon earth hath been preserved!

"Nor is the providence of God less remarkable in the destruction of their enemies, than in the preservation of themselves! For from the beginning, who have been the great enemies and oppressors of the Jewish nation, removed them from their own land, and compelled them into captivity and slavery? The Egyptians afflicted them very much, and detained them in bondage several years. The Assyrians carried away captive the ten tribes of Israel, and the Babylonians the two remaining tribes of Judah and Benjamin. The Syro-Macedonians, especially Antiochus Epiphanes, cruelly persecuted them; and the Romans utterly dissolved the Jewish State, and dispersed the people—so that they have never been able to recover their city and country again.

"But where are now the great and famous monarchies, which in their turns subdued and oppressed the people of God? Are they not vanished as a dream, and not only their power, but their very names lost in the earth? The Egyptians, Assyrians, and Babylonians were overthrown and entirely subjugated by the Persians:

and the Persians, it is remarkable, were the restorers of the Jews, as well as the destroyers of their enemies! The Syro-Macedonians were swallowed up by the Romans; and the Roman empire, great and powerful as it was, was broken in pieces by the incursions of the northern nations; while the Jews are subsisting as a distinct people at this day. And what a wonder of Providence is it, that THE VANQUISHED should so many ages survive THE VICTORS, and the former be spread all over the world, while the latter are no more!

"Nay, not only nations have been punished for their cruelty to the Jews, but Divine vengeance hath pursued even single persons, who have been their persecutors and oppressors. The first-born of Pharaoh was destroyed, and he himself, with his host, was drowned in the sea. Most of those who oppressed Israel in the days of the Judges, Eglon, Jabin, and Sisera, Oreb and Zeeb, and the rest, came to an untimely end. Nebuchadnezzar was stricken with madness, and the crown was soon transferred from his family to strangers. Antiochus Epiphanes died in great agonies, with ulcers, and vermin issuing from them; so that the filthiness of his smell was intolerable to all his attendants. Herod, who was a cruel tyrant to the Jews, died in the same miserable manner. Flaccus, governor of Egypt, who barbarously plundered and oppressed the Jews of Alexandria, was afterwards banished and slain. Caligula, who persecuted the Jews for refusing to pay divine honour to his statues, was murdered in the flower of his age, after a short and wicked reign. But where are now—since they have absolutely rejected the Gospel, and been no longer the peculiar people of God—where are now such visible manifestations of a Divine interposition in their favour?"

"The Jews would do well to consider this point; for, rightly considered, it may be an effectual means of opening their eyes, and of turning them to Christ our Saviour!"

I have, Mr. Editor, dwelt the more on this point, because, in addition to the strong presumption of their future conversion, which in my last letter was deduced from the fact of the Providential preservation of the Jewish people; that remarkable fact, unless I am greatly mistaken, will be found to enfold in its bosom the most complete demonstration that their conversion as a nation to the faith of "the Lord Jesus," will yet take place. The Providential preservation of the Jewish nation is to continue till the end of time. See Jeremiah xxxi. 35-37 Hence it will surely be in existence when the age of universal righteousness shall arrive; which affords a special ground of confidence as to their entire conversion, not applicable to any other nation at this moment upon the face of the earth. "Nations and empires rise and fall, flourish and decay." This process is carried on beneath the administration of Him who hath given his Church this security. "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee, shall perish; yea that nation shall be utterly wastel." Isaiah lx. 12. This is the key which will explain the destiny of every nation inscribed in the records of universal history; "the Jew first, and also the Greek." And the blessed result of the Divine administration of this principle will be, that an age of reformation will yet come and gladden our fallen world. "Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written," respecting "Messiah the Prince:" "All kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him!" Psalm lxxii. 11.

It may gratify your respected correspondent to have this put in the syllogistic form; viz:—

An age will come in which all nations shall serve the Lord Jesus Christ;

The Jewish nation will be in existence in that age; Therefore in that age the Jewish nation shall serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

I remain, Mr. Editor, yours,  
AN HUMBLE BELIEVER IN A MILLENNIUM YET TO  
BE PRODUCED BY THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.  
Near Lake Champlain,  
July 28, 1843.

PIETY, based upon faith and repentance, leads the soul through countless difficulties into the fruition of unending bliss.

THE mind that thinks can never be solitary.