

Literary and Scientific.

THE JEWS—FROM *Harper's Magazine* FOR JANUARY.—When John Evelyn went to Rome, two centuries ago, he found the Jews in that city living in a quarter by themselves, called the Ghetto. They were confined to the same quarter some years ago when the Easy Chair was in Rome. But the Ghetto is now gone. Two Jews sit in Rome in the Italian Senate, and eight in the House of Deputies. It is five centuries since the Jews were excluded from England, and it was the ancient law of the land that a Christian man or woman who married a Jew should be burned. But the last Prime Minister of England was Benjamin of Israel, or Benjamin the Jew, and a Jew whom the Queen raised to a baronetcy has just received honors and gratitude in all countries upon the completion of his hundredth year. It is a marvellous change in opinion. Isaac of York, in Scott's *Ivanhoe*, was the old Jew. The Rothschilds and Moses Montefiore are the new Jews. Indeed, one of the best signs of the changed opinion and of the self-respect of the race is the fact that the great-grandson of the English Jewish rabbi Moses Cohen, who was the first teacher of the Jewish law in North Carolina, and one of the first in America, does not hesitate in his address in Charleston on the birthday of Sir Moses Montefiore to say that he and his brethren meet as Jews. They are not afraid of the name. Like John Wesley, who caught the epithet of Methodist which was hurled at him and his friends in derision, and made it one of the most honoured names in the Christian nomenclature, so Mr. J. Barrett Cohen quietly appropriates the name Jew, and it is he who speaks of Lord Beaconsfield as Benjamin the Jew. Certainly the birthday of Sir Moses Montefiore was a day upon which his religious fraternity had the highest reason to congratulate themselves, and to recall with pride the glories of their race. Its achievements in every department of affairs and art are prodigious, except in the industrial arts. They have supplied the treasuries of nations; they have directed national affairs; they have enriched human life with philosophy and science and every form of art; they have extended the domain of commerce and of trade; they have lived in all lands and contributed to the prosperous activities of every people, but distinctively industrial they have not been; they have been in nations and among them, but not of them. The Roman Ghetto was symbolic of their separation from the very communities in which they lived. This exclusiveness and separation Mr. Cohen attributes to the Jewish law of marriage and the Jewish dietetic laws. The general superiority

which he claims for Israel he attributes to its long training in the law of Moses. The careful and hereditary discipline of the moral and physical man has tended to make the Jew pure and good, and strong and healthy.

"CANADA AS A WINTER RESORT," in the *February Century*, is very pleasant reading. Following are a few selections from it:—"How could an Englishman who has been brought up upon the damp and delusive pictures . . . of a London winter . . . be able to picture what a genuine Canadian winter means? Fancy what a difference it would have made to the literature of the world had the English poets had such a winter to write about. But Canada should yet produce the true poet of winter, for the true poetry of winter is here. . . . Nothing is truer than that the winter has an invigorating influence upon mankind. The Canadians are harder and healthier than their cousins across the border, mainly because of this and of their indulgence in open air exercises. Dr. Hurlburt, of Ottawa, who has given special attention to the subject of climates, shows very clearly, in his contrasts of the Old World with the New, that the regions of the Old which lie in latitudes and positions similar to the greater part of the United States, are inferior for the abode of man to those which correspond with Canada. . . . As I said before, it is by no means every delicate person who should make Canada his winter resort; but it is well known that our winters have cured chronic cases for which Colorado and Florida were alone supposed to be beneficial. Every winter numbers resort to Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, and Winnipeg for no other reason than that for which they once went to tropical climates. I know of patients who were regularly sent to Bermuda and the West Indies, and others to such winter climates as Nice, without more than temporary benefit, who were completely cured by the outdoor life of our Montreal and Quebec winters . . . One clergyman who had come out from England for some affection of the throat, was determined to do his share of shoveling snow. He had very thin moccasins on his feet, and during the day as there was a warm wind, they were wet through. He never expected to see England again, but that one day's work cured him effectually." If space permitted we should like to give more of this interesting paper.

A SPLENDID AEROLITE, the *Telegraph* reports, fell on the farm of C. Francois, at Chateau Richer, a short distance from Quebec, at 3 a.m., on Saturday December 13, 1884. It was dug from the ground, in which it had embedded itself, and measured about a foot in diameter. The people were so startled by the intense light, and say that the falling meteor presented the appearance of a huge ball of fire, which lighted up the whole country almost with the brilliancy of the noonday sun.