

### III.—FIELD OF MONTHLY SURVEY.

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#### Palestine and Syria,\* The Jews,† Educational Work.‡

##### PALESTINE AND THE JEWS.

Palestine is being more and more opened to the return of the Jewish nation, and the movement to repeople the Holy Land with the sons of Israel is gaining great momentum.

The present Jewish population in Palestine has been much questioned. In 1874 Dr. Baedeker put the number at between 14,000 and 18,000. In 1894 he gave the population in the chief towns (Jerusalem, Hebron, Tiberias, and Safed together with Joppa) as about 60,000. Adding those in the coast towns, it would make over 80,000 altogether. In Jerusalem there are said to be about 15,000 Jews within the city walls, and over 20,000 more living in the so-called colonies just outside the city walls. The number is constantly increasing. They are building new synagogues, schools and hospitals, and getting possession of real estate in and around the city. The new railroad from Joppa is stimulating business activity. The old city is being modernized. New streets are being laid out within and outside the walls. The water supply is being improved. Factories are being established. Electric lighting and telegraphic and telephonic means of communication have been introduced. In the country regions, too, many projects of a public nature have been undertaken, and He-

brew capital is playing an important part in these new enterprises. Taking all Palestine, there are now about 80,000 Jews settled as residents—a greater number than at any time since the second century. Taking the rate of increase of the last ten years, a decade hence the Jewish population of the Holy Land will exceed a million. Prophecy is being fulfilled.

A Jewish rabbi thus epitomizes the Jewish creed :

- "1. I believe in God.
- "2. I believe in reward for good and punishment for evil.
- "3. I believe in separating the sacred from the secular.
- "4. I believe in a Sabbath for man and beast.
- "5. I believe in filial devotion to parents.
- "6. I believe in right to life and liberty.
- "7. I believe in the sanctity of marriage.
- "8. I believe in the rights of property.
- "9. I believe in truth and honesty.
- "10. I believe in the unselfish love of fellow-men."

Compare this with the Apostles' Creed, and you get in contrast the fundamental articles of Judaism and Christianity :

"I believe in God the Father Almighty . . . and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord . . . I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

The Christian believes all that the Jew affirms; but he also believes, on the evidence of Christ and His resurrection, in the immortality of the soul, in a divine provision for delivering the individual from the sins with which he has entangled himself, in a spiritual communion with others, based on and the expression of his spiritual character, and in a direct and immediate converse with God, speaking to and dwelling in the hearts of His children. The Judaism of David and Isaiah believed this, but the present-day rabbis make no mention of any of it in their creed.

\* See also pp. 776 (October); 911, 914 (present issue). *Recent Articles*: "A Day in Palestine," *Sunday Magazine* (April); *Missions in Syria* (monthly).

† See also pp. 57 (January); 277, 301 (April); 59, 911, 914 (present issue). *New Books*: "History of the Jews," H. Graetz; "History of the Jewish Nation," Alfred Ebersheim. *Recent Articles*: "Israel among the Nations," *Review of Books* (January); "The Modern Jew and the New Judaism," *Fortnightly Review* (March and April); "The Emancipation of the Jews," *National Review* (May); "Jewish Missions," *The Nineteenth Century* (August); "The Mission of Judaism," *Fortnightly Review* (October); also *ecclesiastical* *Review*, *Jewish Chronicle*, *Jewish Herald*, *Jewish World*, *Hebrew Christian*, and *The Scattered Nation*.

‡ See pp. 129 (February); 208 (March); 542 (July); 824, 911 (November); 904, 922 (present issue).