

their creed, and this ought not to be lost sight of, has preserved their morals through ages of persecution. The proud words in the House of Commons over forty years ago of Benjamin Disraeli, afterward Lord Beaconsfield, himself a scion of the same race, "The Jews are the oldest aristocracy on the face of the globe, with a pedigree of 2,000 years," were probably only intended in the sense of an eulogium on their intellectual and moral qualities. And undoubtedly, considering their small number and distribution in all parts of the world, their success in all walks of life in all countries, but more especially under free and tolerant institutions, is marvellous. The Irish have also suffered in a similar manner through centuries, and religion has been the guardian of their morals. Their descendants are the most prosperous in different free countries.

Millions of money are cheerfully spent for the purpose of introducing and raising the purest blood of race horses, hunting dogs, cattle and poultry in different countries, but jealousy and intolerance act to the contrary with human races. On the other side of the Atlantic attempts are made to expel the Jews, or, worse still, to commit them to a form of slavery in the shape of social and political degradation. The anti-Semitic movement will find little sympathy in this great republic, where over thirty years back streams of good blood and millions of gold were justly sacrificed in order to elevate to equality before the law the descendants of cannibals, to state the full truth, with all due respect to the colored races, who under the influence of religion (first) and subsequent freedom have risen to higher stages of civilization. All parties in this country are now proud of the triumph of humanity and tolerance over race prejudice and selfishness, and perhaps no more bloodshed may be necessary in the fight of different views about the principles of life. Anyhow, enlightened agnostics or materialists, as well as sincere religious believers, ought to give the example of mutual toleration and respect, and they ought to remember that the greatest philosophers have found it as difficult to prove as to deny the existence of God or of a future life.

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Among the correspondence published on this subject by the *Sun* is a long letter from Mr. Lewis, an Agnostic, who gives the Agnostic's reply to the question of a previous correspondent, "What are the ideas of Agnostics concerning a future state?"

"Agnostics have no ideas or notions about a future state, other than that they cannot altogether eliminate from their mental vision the misleading pictures they had presented to them in childhood, or altogether forget what beautiful things have been written about heaven and what painful things about hell. Having no way of knowing anything about consciousness after death, the Agnostic does not concern himself or speculate about it. All his notions of it have come through human agencies which he has reason to believe are unreliable and of no value.