

raids on Eastern nations is at an end : but that, while Jingoism was in the ascendant, Lord Elgin's presentiments were not fulfilled, Japan probably owes in some measure to her friendly connection with the United States.

Curiously enough, the *Spectator* itself, which is particularly Christian, is at the same time highly Imperialist, and has advocated conquest as an instrument of Christian civilization : it has been dubbed by an eminent thinker the organ of "filibustering Christianity:" so that the American Republic setting forth, in compliance with the *Spectator's* call, to lend its chivalrous aid to some oppressed nationality, might be encountered by the *Spectator* itself with its hymn-book in one hand and its six-shooter in the other.

Our notice of the Jew Question in Germany had passed through the press before we received the current number of the *Contemporary Review*, in which there is an article on the subject by the Author of "German Home Life." We extract a passage which shows that the German peasant may have reasons for his antipathy apart from the question of religion. We may add that exactly the same process has been going on in Roumania.

Everywhere the peasant proprietor hated the Jew. In the north and in the south, in the east as in the west, one story met the ears of those who would listen to the tale. The land had to be mortgaged to pay family claims; the bauer had recourse to the money-lender; the money-lender naturally extorted what he could; the Jew grew fat as the Gentile got lean. A few bad harvests, cattle plague, or potato disease, and the wretched peasant, clinging with the unreasoning, frantic love of a faithful animal to his habitat, had, in dumb agony, to see his farm sold up, his stock disposed of, and the acres he had toiled early and late to redeem and watered by the sweat of his stubborn brow, knocked down by the Jewish interloper to the highest bidder. By these means (even in old times) the Jew money-lender realized large profits on a small outlay, and so common a case was this that both the Prussian and Bavarian Government saw fit to pass some restrictive laws on this system of chopping up farm lands ("farm-butchery" as the peasant called it) and selling them in small allotments. In countries where the forest lands were partly royal domain, and partly the inherited property of the hereditary peasantry, the same ruthless foreclosing, the same utter ruin to the unhappy bauer, drew the attention of both the government and communal bodies to the pernicious system in vogue. The Jew of agricultural districts would know to a nicety the financial position of the farmers and peasant proprietors. He would wait and watch, and bide his time; lending his victim money in the first instance, then threatening him, again stopping the gap; until, working without capital, the bauer became a mere labourer on his own land, his master exacting work and heavy interest from him, and misfortune on misfortune culminated in total ruin.