

Twenty-five years ago the total number of Jews in Jerusalem was not more than fifteen thousand, or less than half of the whole population; now it is not less than forty thousand, or at least two-thirds of the whole population. While the outer appearance of the Jews is, in so many cases, unattractive and unpromising, you will nevertheless find them largely in possession of the shops and other industries of the city. And they are reaching forth to compass the city in the manner foretold by the prophet. In the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah, after the assurance of great spiritual blessing in store for Israel, it is written (verses 38-40): "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the city shall be built to the Lord, from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner. And the measuring line shall yet go forth against it upon the hill Gareb, and shall compass about to Goath. And the whole valley of the dead bodies, and of the ashes, and all the fields unto the brook of Kidron, unto the corner of the horse-gate toward the east, shall be holy unto the Lord; it shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down, any more forever." In Zech. xiv. 10 it is written: "And the land shall be inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's wine-presses."

From time immemorial the Jews in Jerusalem believed that the tower of Hananeel used to stand at a point within the city not far east of the Jaffa gate. About six years ago, when the workmen were digging at that point to lay the foundations of the Grand New Hotel, they came upon what had every indication of being the ruins of the ancient tower.

Several times I went over the territory defined in these prophecies. From the old tower of Hananeel extends a line of new buildings almost to the "Tombs of the Judges," in the valley of the dead bodies north of the city. Following the course a little farther to

the northeast, we came to "the king's wine-presses," cut in the solid rock, with one huge cistern-like receptacle for the wine-skins, small at the mouth, and about twenty feet in depth, measuring, perhaps, forty by thirty feet below.

Whatever may be the significance of the fact, it is interesting to note that, within the bounds defined so minutely in these prophecies, over which the final Jerusalem shall extend, are included nine-tenths of all the permanent buildings and wonderful improvements which are being made within and around the city.

These new buildings are owned largely by the Jews. And the report has been circulated and confirmed that a syndicate of wealthy Persian Jews has recently purchased a very large strip of territory, extending from beyond the king's wine-presses around toward the northeastern corner of the city.

The sons of Abraham seem thus to be fulfilling this part of the prophecy. But, in the same chapter, it is also written: "I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts." Shall this promise be realized? The signs of its fulfilment are not easy to read in the intense anti-Christian movements of the Jewish mind. But there are other signs of the times. The conversion of the Jews may not be hopefully near, but I have been assured by many Christian workers—ministers, physicians, educators, and others—not only at Jerusalem, but also in other parts of Palestine and Syria, that an increasing number of Jews are hungering for that which the New Testament contains, and are searching its pages with a far less prejudiced mind than heretofore. This search is not always conducted openly, for such a thing at present would mean, in many cases, ostracism, persecution, and perhaps death. But there are hopeful signs that the words of Christ shall yet be realized: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."