

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

### "THE JEWS—CRUCIFY THEM!"

BY E. B. BRY, DURHAM, N. H., OWN SOUND.

I. Such is the cry that is now being raised in many places throughout the world—notably in the Austro-Hungarian empire, where the Hebrew population is most numerous. There seems to be a latent hatred against the race on the part of nations, which, like a smouldering fire, is ever ready to break out into persecution. "Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee," "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem;" "They shall prosper that love" thee—the Jews, "beloved for their fathers' sake." One would suppose that with such statements clearly written in our English Bibles, men would be slow to evil-treat that people whose history has been so wonderful, but what is the fact? Their whole history is a tale of evil entreaty—proscription—horror. Some of the darkest pages in the book of time have been written with Jewish blood. Their city was sacked and burned seventeen times, and their holy and beautiful house, in which their fathers worshipped, met with a similar fate. Their inheritance was seized upon by strangers, and is still trodden under the foot of the Gentiles. Their very name is a by-word and a reproach among men. Thousands have been put to death for no other reason than that of being Jews. We often hear of the massacre of St. Bartholomew, in which so many unoffending and helpless Protestants were slain, but how often has the St. Bartholomew massacre been repeated in the history of the Jews? In Spain, during the thirty-seven years preceding 1520—the period of the Reformation, when just views began to prevail toward the race—no less, probably, than 100,000 were murdered, and in the days of Ferdinand and Isabella, 160,000 were banished. In the time of Edward III. 600 were incarcerated in the Tower on the plea that they had been guilty of adulterating the coin of the realm; and finally that monarch, whose prejudices were strong against the race, expelled them from England, compelling them to leave behind them their immense wealth, and their libraries so rich in science and historic lore. Ships, indeed, were to be provided for their conveyance to any destination that they might choose, but the promise was badly kept. About 1,600, it seems, made ready to depart, and collected in the various ports towards the end of October, 1290. Some were conveyed to the Continent, others were taken on board, but only to be robbed and murdered by the sailors. In like manner they were expelled from Spain, from France, and from other lands. Some found a home in one country and some in another—many in Egypt, in Italy, in Venice—among whom (that is, in Venice) were the ancestors of the great statesman who has just passed away—Lord Beaconsfield. The persecutions and massacres which have befallen the race is one striking peculiarity in the history of the Jews.

II. Another is their preservation as a nation. Other nations greater and mightier than they have gone down—passed away and left no visible trace behind them. Where is the Babylonian empire, the Macedonian empire, the Roman empire, the ancient Carthaginian empire—once the rival of Rome? The modern Italian is not the descendant of the grand old *Domini rerum*. The present Greek that we meet in the fairs in the east is not the representative of Homer's bronze mailed warriors. Those nations have all disappeared—*melted down among the seed of men*—and left no trace of their individuality in the common amalgamation. But here are the Jewish people preserved in all their integrity, the population much the same through all the centuries—seven millions—the number sometimes rising a little and sometimes falling, but, upon the whole, keeping pretty near that number. You find them everywhere. You find them in all the great cities of the world—in Lisbon, in London, and Liverpool, and New York. You find them by all the great rivers—the Thames, and the Tagus, and the St. Lawrence—familiar with all latitudes, accustomed to all conditions, labouring in the gold mines of California, and preparing seal skins in the snow huts of Greenland; and able, as a nation to speak in all the great languages of the earth, for there is no speech nor language in which their voice is not heard. Oh, if the divine Spirit was poured out on them as in Pentecostal days—*If God*

*should give the word, what a great company would publish it!*

Now, the strange thing is that, while other nations—nations that once occupied a great space in the world—have disappeared, while you are not able to lay your hand on the head of one who is a descendant of Hannibal or Alexander, you are able to lay your hand almost everywhere upon the descendants of Abraham—seven millions of them—seven millions of Jews with the blood of the patriarchs in their veins, the speech of Abraham on their lips, and the patriotism of the old exiles by the rivers of Babylon in their hearts. *If I forget thee, Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning, if I do not remember thee let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.*

III.—Closely connected with this fact of the preservation of the Hebrew race, is their patriotism—a patriotism which, in intensity and tenderness, far surpasses anything of the kind known among other nations. And this is easily accounted for when we consider how the country originally came into their possession. Alaska came into the possession of the United States by purchase; Ireland came into the hands of Great Britain through the chances of war; and Great Britain itself came into our possession through inheritance. But how came Palestine into the possession of the Jews? Not by purchase; not by the chances of war; not by inheritance or the diplomacy of kings, but by the gift of God to their fathers. Then what a history! It is all holy ground. Every acre is dotted over with some monument of the past—some reminder of God's dealings with His ancient people. Here is the spot where Jacob tarried all night in his flight from his brother Esau, and where, in his sleep he beheld a ladder set up between heaven and earth, and the angels of God ascending and descending thereon. And here is Sarah's grave, which Abraham bought from the sons of Heth for four hundred shekels of silver, where he might bury his dead. And those mountains—Olivet, and Carmel, and Hermon, and Sinai! What a tale they could tell! What a mystery hangs around them! Patriotism—love of country—intense and tender in the Jew? No wonder! Those "holy fields," over which saintly feet so often trod in days gone by, over which angels lingered in their messages of love to men, are now trodden down by the Gentiles, and no longer in the possession of the Jews, but they are not the less dear. Go where they may in this or in other lands, they never forget Jerusalem, and ever, as they kneel in prayer and pour forth their devotions before God, they turn their face to the temple, the holy and beautiful house in which their fathers worshipped—or rather the place where it stood—after the manner of Daniel in Babylon, and, dying, desire to be buried in Jerusalem, the very dust of which is dear to them.

(To be continued.)

### IN THE NORTH-WEST.

MR. EDITOR,—I left Winnipeg Wednesday morning last, to attend meeting of Manitoba Presbytery, held at this point, some seventy miles west. On board our train we had no less than twelve members of Presbytery, principally from fields east of Winnipeg; and at the Portage we met the western members, making in all an attendance of over twenty ministers, with several elders. In 1873, on my last visit, there were only some five or six ministers in the Presbytery, and hardly a congregation beyond Portage la Prairie. The Presbytery continued in session nearly three days, and but for the absolute necessity of adjournment on Friday, to enable as many as possible to reach their fields before Sabbath, the amount of important business before it might well have occupied a week. Some of the members came a distance of 150 miles to attend Presbytery, over roads, even at this season of the year, well nigh impassable. Many of these have the supervision of fields 100 miles in extent. No one in Ontario can have any idea of the greatness of our mission work in the North-West, and its peculiar character, until he is face to face with the men who are labouring in such fields.

An entire day of the Presbytery was taken up in considering the proposed regulations for the guidance of the newly appointed superintendent of missions. I regretted exceedingly that Mr. Bruce was not present to aid me in framing them, but as they can only be tentative, and of the most general character

until approved of by the Home Mission Committee and General Assembly, there will be ample opportunity for their revision and emendation during the year. The arrears of salaries (from the stations) due several of our missionaries, was the subject of earnest and prolonged inquiry and discussion. Many of the amounts were of such an old date that there was no moral claim upon the Home Mission Committee to pay them, while on the other hand, if it can be shewn that due diligence has been exercised by the Presbytery and the missionary to collect the amounts expected from the people, it seems hard that the missionaries should suffer loss. The adjustment proposed will be laid before the Home Mission Committee for consideration. It is to be hoped that the question of arrears will never again come before the Home Mission Committee.

Not the least interesting portion of the business before Presbytery, was the licensing of Mr. J. A. Macdonald, and the ordination of Mr. Daniel Stalker to the work of the ministry. Both of these young brethren acquitted themselves to the high satisfaction of the Presbytery, and give promise of much usefulness in this great land.

On Thursday evening I lectured to a large and exceedingly enthusiastic audience in the Town Hall. Friday afternoon was devoted to a Sabbath school picnic in connection with Mr. Bell's congregation. On Saturday I drove over to Burnside, and visited Mr. Kenneth McKenzie, whose large and well cultivated farm of some 3,000 acres is so universally admired by Ontario agriculturists. Yesterday I preached morning and evening in Portage la Prairie, and in the afternoon at High Bluff. To-day I return to Winnipeg to take part in the exercises connected with Mr. Robertson's appointment to the superintendency of missions, and thence proceed to Emerson.

I have arrived at the following conclusions regarding our work here, after hearing the statements of brethren, and the reports from our different mission fields:

If we are to maintain the position we occupy as a Church in the North-West, the Home Mission Committee must receive a large increase of income. With the most rigid economy, and in spite of refusing many demands, it is simply impossible to hold our own unless there is greater liberality on the part of our people.

The greatest possible care must be exercised, both by the Presbytery and the superintendent of missions, in promising aid to new fields, where no definite engagement is entered into. Many of the arrears, referred to in another part of this letter, have arisen from misunderstandings as to the obligations of the Committee. It cannot be too emphatically stated that the grants of the Home Mission Committee are made to *help* the people to support their ministers, and that in every case the grants are paid on condition that *full* statistics are regularly forwarded in March and September, and that their monetary engagements to their missionaries are honourably and promptly fulfilled.

While it is evident that in some cases the stations in Manitoba have not done all they might for the support of ordinances, it is just as certain that in very many cases the people are so poor as to make it impossible to give to any great extent. During the last two years a better class of settlers (so far as regards money) has come into the country, but those of earlier years have not yet got beyond the abject poverty that characterized them on leaving Ontario, and on their settlement in the country. Hard storms and severe frosts in some districts, *year after year*, have desolated the most promising crops, and left the people utterly broken-hearted and dispirited. Some of those who are giving for the support of the Gospel have for long months lived upon nothing save bread and water. It is therefore a great mistake to suppose that every settler in Manitoba is prosperous. For a long time, in certain of the more unfortunate districts, aid will be needed from the Churches in the eastern provinces.

The self-denying labours, and positive hardships of our North-West missionaries, are worthy of all praise, and deserve the grateful commendation of the Church. I know well that in Ontario and Quebec, the missionaries have arduous duties, but in this new and sparsely settled country, there are difficulties to be encountered which cannot be understood by those who occupy more limited fields. Such missionaries