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"A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel."

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MRS. T. C. ROUNDS, EDITOR.

THE JEWS.

FROM THE REPORT OF COMMISSION I, ON
CARRYING THE GOSPEL TO ALL THE
NON-CHRISTIAN WORLD, OF THE WORLD
MISSIONARY CONFERENCE HELD AT EDIN-
BURGH, SCOTLAND, JUNE 14-23, 1910.

PREPARED FOR THE COMMITTEE BY
REV. LOUIS MEYER.

I. THE PEOPLE TO BE EVANGEL- IZED.

1. *Numbers and Distribution.*—
The Jews are a remarkable race. They have a history that stretches over a period of almost 4,000 years. Brought to the brink of destruction at least five times in the course of their history, they have been marvelously preserved, and they probably exist today in larger numbers than at any previous period of their history. According to the most reliable estimates, the approximate figures of Jewish population were, on January 1, 1910, in round numbers:

Europe.....	9,125,000
Asia.....	375,000
Africa.....	355,000
America.....	2,125,000
Australasia....	20,000
Total.....	12,000,000

Thus the Jews of today are pre-eminently a people living in Europe, though the Jewish population of the United States—two millions

—is today double of that of 1899 and five times larger than it was in 1888.

In *Europe*, Austria contains more than 1,125,000 Jews; Hungary, 850,000; Bulgaria, 36,000; France, 95,000; Germany, 608,000; Holland, 106,000; Italy, 50,000; Roumania, 250,000; Russia, 5,215,000; European Turkey, about 300,000; the British Isles, 238,000. In *Asia*, Palestine has 100,000 Jewish inhabitants; Asia Minor and Syria, 65,000; Persia, 63,000; Arabia, 20,000; India, 18,000; Turkestan and Afghanistan, 18,000. In *Africa*, Morocco has 150,000 Jews; Tunis, 60,000; Algeria, 63,000; Abyssinia (Falashas), 6,500; South Africa, 50,000. In *America*, the United States has 2,000,000 Jews; Canada, 60,000; the Argentine Republic, 45,000.

The vast majority of all the Jews live in the larger cities in separate quarters, in compact masses, and distinct in social life from the surrounding Gentiles.*

*It is interesting to consider the percentage of Jews to the total population, as given in the *Jewish Year Book*, London, 1910. In Poland the percentage is 14%; in Palestine, 15½%; in Austria, 4%; in Roumania, 4¼%; in Hungary, 4 1/7; in Russia, 4; in Morocco, 3; in the United States, 2¼; Canada, 1¼; Germany, 1 1/12; France, ¼; Great Britain, ¼. Among the cities of the world Greater New York contains the largest Jewish population, about one million; but the percentage of Jews to total population is only 26; while in Russia, two cities, namely, Berdichev (47,000 Jews) and Pinsk (22,000 Jews), and one city in Palestine, Tiberias, have more than 80 per cent. of Jews in their total population. The percentage of Jews to the total population in some others of the larger cities is as

this connection to know that another graduate of the Hebrew Union College and of the University of Cincinnati, Mr. J. Moses, became a convert to Christianity a number of years ago, after he had officiated as rabbi in the State of New York. He was connected with the Jewish missionary work of the Episcopal Church in New York for some years; but is now a teacher of languages in New York City.

New York City, September 16, 1910.

JEWISH BAPTISMS AGAIN.

BY REV. LOUIS MEYER.

The attention of our readers has been called several times to the large number of Jews receiving baptism (see pp. 42, 53 and 113 of JEWISH ERA, 1910) and we have been very careful to point out that baptism does not necessarily mean conversion and may be caused by outward circumstances, by a desire to escape persecution, to join the majority, to reach higher official or social position, or by a sincere belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not deny that such baptisms for other reasons than living faith may lead to true conversion, for a number of such cases are known to us, or that the children of such baptized Jews may become true Hebrew Christians, but we consider it the duty of every Christian minister or missionary to be very careful in the case of a Jew applying for baptism, and we recommend the action of the Russian Government of recent date for earnest consideration.

The Department of the Interior for non-orthodox sects (that is, sects not belonging to the Greek Church) investigated the matter

of the largely increasing baptisms of Jews in Russia, and addressed a letter to the Evangelical Lutheran General Consistory, in whose congregations more Jews have been baptized lately than in those of any other church. The Department stated its investigations caused it to fear that the majority of these numerous Jews did not apply for baptism from religious motives, but from a desire to purchase by baptism those rights which are still withheld from Jews in the Russian Empire. The Lutheran General Consistory was therefore instructed by the Department to send a letter of warning to every Lutheran pastor and urge greatest care in Jewish baptisms. The pastors must ascertain the motives of Jewish applicants so far as possible, and must impart most thorough Christian instruction before the administration of baptism. The rite itself is not to be performed at times convenient to pastor and candidate, but only during the season of confirmation, once a year.

The order is very stringent, and has been sent most probably to all sects under the oversight of the Department. It will cause a falling-off in the number of Jewish baptisms in Russia in the future, but it is wholesome, except in its limitation of the season of Jewish baptisms.

Some interesting objects have been excavated in the Holy Land and are now on exhibition at the British Museum. Among these are a small vase, a sort of toilet-table ornament, a rouge-box found near Mt. Carmel; also an arm ring found in the swamps of Dinair, a crystal-breaker and a water-jug of Tyrian manufacture. There is also an amphora of cut-glass dug out of a ditch near the Dead Sea. They belong to the period of Roman rule in Palestine.—*The Jewish World.*