

# THE JEWISH ERA

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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 JEW.

BY REV. A. W. PITZER, D. D., LL. D.

For four thousand years the Jew has been an important factor, if not the most important, in all human history. He has touched and influenced all lands and peoples, from Egypt forty centuries ago, to to the mighty empire of Russia of our day and generation. In and through him all nations have in turn oppressed and persecuted him.

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This is the most widely dispersed race of all the peoples on earth: for the Jew is found everywhere. Their sacred Scriptures have been more widely circulated among the nations than the writings of any other race, for they have gone out to the ends of the earth in more than four hundred languages and dialects, and today are read in all parts of the habitable earth.

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This is the most persistent and enduring of all races. After centuries of captivities, bondage and persecutions, the Jew is as virile and unconquered as he was three thousand years ago. The records of the Hebrew historians and prophets are the most persistent and enduring of all writings among men; they have survived the

ravages of time, and the fury and fires of their captors and enemies.

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The sons and daughters of the American Revolution pride themselves on their pedigree, and the heroic deeds of their ancestors more than a hundred years ago. Nearly all Americans have heard of the Mayflower, Jamestown and "F. F. V's." And yet the nobility of Europe, with pedigrees of a thousand years, look with something of contempt on our youth and verdancy, and point to ivy covered castles and ruins that date back to the Roman invasion.

Ben Hur, a descendant of the companion of Moses, scorns with loathing the proudest and most honored names of the city and empire of the Romans. His race had a settled constitution and civilization centuries before Rome was founded. The Jew has a continuous story for four thousand years; in the wandering, in the bondage, in the exode, in the theocracy, in the monarchy, in the captivity, in the dispersion. Compared with the reliable history of this race, all other races are but as of yesterday and their records but as myths and legends.

The tribe of Jacob began its national career in that wondrous land fertilized by the ever-flowing waters of the Victoria Lake of equatorial Africa—and the life of

the race, from the Egyptian who knew not Joseph, to the Russian who knows not Israel, has been a life of subjugation, oppression and persecution.

The chariot of the Assyrian, the spear of the Babylonian, the bow of the Persian, the lance of the Greek, the sword of the Roman, have each in turn tasted the blood of the Hebrew, and made his life bitter with untold and unutterable misery. The Turk, the Mohammedan, the Crusader, the Greek and the Roman Christian, have alike scattered and slaughtered the children of Israel: so that from the days of Nebuchadnezzar, the Jew has been the man of the weary foot, without a country, a government or a home. He is found in all lands, and among all peoples—northward, southward, eastward, westward; in all zones, on all continents, and the far off islands of the oceans; side by side with all races and tribes, yet mingling with none; but whenever and wherever found, still a Jew, only and always a Jew—but with the undying hope that some day in the future all these scattered children shall be brought back from the utmost ends of the earth to the land given by their Jehovah to Abraham and his seed after him for an everlasting possession.

Like the bush that Moses saw—burning, but not consumed—in spite of persecution, he lives and forges to the front. Like his persistent ancestor Jacob, he becomes a prevailing prince.

Mordecai thwarts the evil designs of Haman and becomes prime minister to Ahasuerus, the Mede. Daniel, for seventy years, and through four dynasties, is the most commanding person at the court of Babylon the Great. And from that day to this the Jew has made himself felt in the councils of all

nations. In our day Beaconsfield, the statesman, and Rothschild, the banker, have almost dominated the policies of the great nations of the world, while the story of the Jew Dreyfus, an obscure officer in the French army, has rung round the globe, shaking the very foundations of the Republic of France and disturbing the balance of power in all Europe.

The Jew will not down at the bidding of autocratic power; he lives and thrives in spite of Devil's Island, dungeon and Russian barbarities and butcheries, nor will he ever cease from being a distinct people before the Jehovah God of his ancestors.—*Presbyterian*.

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#### A NEW APPEAL FOR PRAYER.\*

BY REV. THOS. M. CHALMERS.

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#### NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER.

While a revived interest in Israel is apparent in many directions, yet the great work of arousing the Christian conscience is only well begun. If American Christians are to accomplish the task set before them in the evangelization of the vast mass of Jews in our land, they must stir up their hearts to earnest and long continued supplication in this behalf. Here is Satan's strongest citadel, and he will not relinquish his hold on this imperial race without the bitterest struggle. More prayer is needed. Prayer alone can win the victory in this mighty conflict. The Lord's labors and intercessors in this great field must seek to be clothed with divine power. At the Toronto Convention of the Student Volunteers John R. Mott said: "In the last analysis the source of

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\*The advance sheets of a new tract by the author, followed the Call to Prayer, issued May 3, 1902.