

THE EVIL OF ZIONISM.

From The American Israelite, (Cincinnati.)

The following from the editorial columns of The London Jewish Chronicle contains a suggestion that may well be carefully considered by those Americans who are inclined to regard Zionism as at worst a bit of harmless idealism. The editor of The Chronicle says:

"Of course all of us are gratified and impressed by the spectacle of Jews gathered from the ends of the earth to take counsel over the position of the race. We should not be Jews at all if we did not rejoice in the fraternization of our people, and in the stirring of racial consciousness. But any feeling of satisfaction on that score would be hopelessly obliterated if it issued in financial speculation, culminating in disaster. We think, too, the Zionists have another duty solemnly laid upon them. They should beware at their conferences of exaggerating national pretensions. Sometimes it would almost seem as though they delighted in emphasizing our supposed national separateness, and the impossibility of ever carrying out the experiment which England has for two generations been essaying—the experiment of granting the Jew racial individuality and English rights. As Mr. J. H. Levy has well said in this connection: 'That Great Britain would long tolerate the unlimited inflow of a population proclaiming their intention to remain aliens to the furthest generation, and sneering at anglicization as a wretched shibboleth,' is not to be thought of by sane politicians. How significant is it that the President of the 'British Brothers' has proclaimed his sympathy with Zionism! The Zionists see nothing in the admiration which their propoganda inspires among many anti-Semites. But they must understand that their ostentatious proclamation of a Jewish nationality that cannot be content with anything but a Jewish State is merely playing into the hands of the enemies of their race. It is a confirmation of the contention that English citizenship has been conferred on a number of people who can never be Englishmen, and Jews may wake up one day to find that while Zionism has failed to hew out a separate Jewish nationality, it has destroyed that which years of laborious work have achieved in free countries like England. Why should Jews turn round and warn Englishmen that they are engaged in a fatuous and impossible experiment? Why halt, of our own will, on the path which has been traversed with such pain and labor, and wander back to the point from which the centuries of marching began?"

This is the position which The Israelite has assumed from the very beginning of this pernicious agitation. Motives should of course always be considered, but wise men have ever held a fool to be more dangerous than a deliberate evildoer, especially to those whom he seeks to serve. We therefore firmly believe that Jewish Zionism has in the few years of its existence done more harm to Israel than has Christian anti-Semitism, and that Herzl and Nordau and their misguided followers have been most efficient allies of Drumont, Stoecker, and their accomplices.

Let who will speak with guarded consideration of these people. The Israelite has a duty to perform and will not refrain from plain speaking. Attention must be called to the danger that lies in the Zionite crusade. Sane men should lose no opportunity to denounce it in public and private as an exotic in this country, as it is in England, as the product of diseased minds, too weak to bear the light burden of social discrimination, or grasped at as a last hope by the unfortunates whom Russia and Roumania have tortured until they have been driven to the brink of despair.

Zionism and anti-Semitism are twin enemies of the Jews, and the former is potentially the more dangerous.

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