

without paradox?—could hardly have been convincing to that assembly. The lecturer endeavoured to propound a theory that only by a rigorous adherence to the narrowest doctrines of Judaism could the race be perpetuated. According to him there were broad-minded Jews and narrow-minded Jews, the former of whom were a difficulty in Europe, the latter being excellent, and deserving of esteem. It is doubtful whether those present at the meeting, or the members of the community in general, took Mr. Chesterton seriously. Perhaps he did not intend they should. It is strange how erroneous is the impression in the minds of many as to the manners and customs of Jews, as to their outlook upon their Judaism in particular, and upon life in general. If the history of the Jewish community in different parts of the world has proved anything in the last fifty years, it has proved the desire of its members to regard their duty to their religion in a light quite apart from their duty to the countries of their adoption. Long residence and association with those in whose lands they have settled have resulted in so complete an identification with their neighbours that there is now little to distinguish them from those of their fellow-citizens boasting a long descent. It is well that this should be so; it would be disastrous to the individual members of the community as well as to the community as a whole, if it were otherwise.

FUTURE OF THE RABBINATE.

Interest continues to grow in the forthcoming conference of delegates convened to consider details connected with the selection of a successor to Dr. Hermann Adler, the late Chief Rabbi. There has, however, already manifested itself strong opposition to the composition of the conference, seeing that many congregations will remain unrepresented, though they will be expected to accept the spiritual control of the selected candidate. So many important considerations are associated with this question of the future of the Rabbinate that it would indeed be a mistake if the United Synagogue, the main body concerned, recognising, at the outset, dissatisfaction with the form of procedure, did not take the earliest opportunity of securing unanimity. Many grave matters of far-reaching importance are closely associated with this all-absorbing question, and to give any section of the community a sense of grievance at the very beginning of the deliberations is to deprive the ultimate result of the chance of complete success. Several names have been mentioned in connection with the vacant office, but save for one rather marked exception, the probable candidates have adopted an attitude of dignified reserve, and have in no sense obtruded themselves upon communal notice.

The *Transvaal Leader* published the following cable from its London correspondent in Monday's issue:—"There is an unprecedented stir in Jewish circles in connection with the conference which is to be held on January 14 to decide whether the Chief Rabbi should in future be allowed a free hand in administrative matters."

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THE EMPIRE.

There was a well-filled auditorium on Monday at this popular place of amusement to witness the change of programme that the present excellent *ensemble* of artistes went through before the appreciative numerous patrons of the Empire. Dave Carter, the Irish tenor, led off with a number of songs rendered in his admirable manner. Miss Doris Hunter's dancing in the roller skates and otherwise was greatly appreciated, whilst the Sisters Casselli—those old favourites with Johannesburg audiences—contributed some new numbers as well as a dancing turn, and were well-rewarded by the applause they received. Rob, Ivy and Lyn's "turn" of vocal and instrumental music was greatly enjoyed by the audience. The Doherty Sisters are very popular with the Empire's audiences as they fully deserve to be, both their coming and going being the signal for enthusiastic applause, in the latter case, however, the applause taking the shape of asking for more. They sing and dance, and in short provide a "turn" that is greatly enjoyed by all—audience and artistes alike. La Estrellita, assisted by Senor Garcia, gives an exhibition of dancing and contributes some songs—both in her inimitable style—and the audience are not slow in evincing their great pleasure derived from this excellent "turn." The Pantzer Troupe are really marvellous in their aero-pantomimic sketch, "The Limit," their astonishing feats eliciting loud and long-continued applause from the enthralled spectators. Miss Dora Sephton, Walter Stanley, Ray and Calder, and the bioscope help materially to complete a good all-round performance, such as has rarely been excelled on the local stage.

STANDARD THEATRE.

"The Prince and the Beggar Maid" is still drawing crowded houses at the above beautifully-renovated building, and both the play and the manner in which the excellent company present it to the appreciative public certainly deserve the success they have attained. Mr. Walter Howard's play grips one from the rise of the curtain for the first act till the final drop at the close of the performance, the love story, the thrilling "situations," and last, but by no means least, the comical scenes—all cleverly combine in providing most interesting and pleasurable entertainment for Johannesburgers. Then the acting of Mr. Alfred Paumier, Miss Lillian Hollowes, and the other members of the cast—to each of whom detailed reference has already been made in these columns—leaves nothing to be desired, villain, hero, heroine, "comics," etc., representing the various phases of the play in a manner that elicits for them the enthusiastic appreciation of the numerous patrons of the Standard Theatre. The scenery and the orchestra add to the excellent impression left by the performance as a whole, so that taken altogether "The Prince and the Beggar Maid" ought not to be missed seeing by our readers. Its popularity is giving the play a most successful season, and there cannot be very many now who have not seen it, but to those—whatever their number may be—we can only recommend an early visit to the Standard.

THE GRAND.

The new programme at this most popular of bioscope theatres given on Monday last for the first time was witnessed by a crowded house packed to its fullest capacity, and each and all of this great throng were unanimous in a most favourable verdict on the evening's entertainment provided by the ever-enterprising management. Miss Ray Hartley is an excellent step-dancer, and her exhibition of toe-dancing was enthusiastically applauded by the audience. Sid Doody and Edie Wright gave a very enjoyable "turn," their singing, dancing and impersonations of famous actors and actresses being very original, and providing a great fund of amusement. Needless to add, they were loudly encored. Bert Errol is a very skilful and clever artiste, and the way in which he impersonates a lady needs only to be seen to be appreciated and admired. His "make-up" is really admirable. He proved at once a great favourite with the public, and his contribution to the evening's programme was encored again and again so that the time of his "turn" was extended more than its originally-intended duration. Miss Phyllis Ray has already become a great favourite with the Grand's numerous patrons, her charming stage appearance, and her songs being greatly admired and appreciated by every section of the crowded auditorium. The pictures thrown on the screen are really excellent in every way, and although the evening's entertainment was one that gave great pleasure to all present. No one can afford to miss it.

THE CHERNIAVSKY ORPHANAGE CONCERT.

The concert in aid of the King Edward Memorial wing of the S.A. Jewish Orphanage takes place at Niagara on Sunday night next. A large number of tickets were disposed of at the Orphanage ball on Wednesday night. The programme to be presented by Leo, Jan, and Mischel Cherniavsky will comprise several new items, which have recently been added to their repertoire. The insufficient accommodation at the Orphanage makes the new Wing an imperative necessity, so that, apart from the excellence of the musical programme to be given, the concert on Sunday night should be patronised by every member of the Jewish community, as the more numerous the tickets sold the greater will the Building Fund of the new wing be benefited.

GAIETY THEATRE.

The above theatre, a thoroughly renovated and re-decorated house, will be opened by Mr. Howard Dow on Monday evening next, when Miss Toby Claude, a well-known actress in America, and an all star company, including Miss Lily Eyton and Mr. Arthur Geary, will appear in a successful American musical comedy extravaganza entitled "A Knight for a Day." Miss Toby Claude has fairly captivated critical audiences for no less than twenty-two months at the Lyric Theatre, New York, and for eighteen months in Melbourne and Sydney. The enormously successful American musical comedy "A Knight for a Day" gives splendid scope for her versatility. The play abounds with amusing situations, and laughter loud and long will re-echo through the Gaiety Theatre on the opening night. Miss Toby Claude is supported by a well balanced and carefully selected company of no less than 35 members in the cast. The comedy will be beautifully staged. The musical numbers and choruses are delightfully pretty, and the dresses have all been carefully selected by Miss Toby Claude herself, and some beautiful modern costumes will be seen. The prices of admission are 3s., 2s., and 1s., while a number of reserved seats can be obtained at 4s. The booking is at Mackay Bros.

JEWISH LADIES' ASSOCIATION'S CONCERT.

The charity concert organised by Miss Feitelberg, under the auspices of the Jewish Ladies' Association, in aid of the Jewish Kitchen at the General Hospital, Johannesburg, takes place on Wednesday, February 14. The concert is under the patronage of the Administrator and Mrs. Rissik, General Lord Methuen and Lady Methuen, the Mayor and Mayoress of Johannesburg, Rabbi Dr. and Mrs. Landau, Senator and Mrs. Samuel Marks. The management of the Grand Theatre have given the use of the building gratis, and the committee are receiving support from all sides for this well-deserving cause. The programme will be a very fine one, with well-known professional artistes, and there will also be a one-act play, "Barbara," presented. Miss F. E. Mallinick and Mr. M. Feitelberg (P.O. Box 580) are joint hon. secretaries of the concert.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN RUSSIA AND GERMANY.

By HERMAN BERNSTEIN.

(Concluded.)

But when Nisselovich, the Jewish Deputy in the Duma, on one occasion quoted Count Tolstoy on the Jewish question, he was hissed off the platform by the reactionaries. This is what Tolstoy said of the anti-Semites:—

"Anti-Semitism is not an opinion, it is not a political conviction, nor a partisan view—it is a sickly condition—a wild passion."

Chichenin, one of Russia's most famous jurists and philosophers, in an open letter addressed to a notorious anti-Semite, in 1897, wrote:—

"You say that the Jews are energetic, enterprising, cultured, and therefore may be dangerous rivals to Russians. This is the first time I hear that energy, enterprise, and culture are crimes for which the rights of human beings should be restricted. It seems to me that a State is benefited by such people. You point out France as an example, and you say that equal rights enjoyed by the Jews there have led them to secure an important position in the higher financial world, and that they are exerting an enormous influence upon the entire economic and administrative life of the country. Others are horrified and show statistically that 80,000 Jews control one-seventh of the entire national capital of France. To my mind, this is to their credit. If 80,000 people out of a population of 30,000,000, working hard, without any special privileges, have succeeded to create for themselves one-seventh of the entire national capital, which is employed for the advancement of commerce and industries and labour, what feelings should such a fact awaken other than that of admiration and gratitude?

But it awakens a feeling of envy in the hearts of the base. I believe that the spreading of such an energetic, enterprising, cultured race throughout the Russian land would materially advance the well-being of Russia. The example of Little Russia (where the Jews are permitted to live) shows that Great Russia need not fear the Jews."

"You are wrong when you say that the pure tablets of Moses are lost and dimmed by the Talmud and the twenty centuries of wanderings and misery. You are wrong when you say that the Judaism which gave birth to Christianity has disappeared. I find that the remarkable thing is that the twenty centuries of wanderings and misery have not dimmed the pure source from which the Jews and the Christians are drawing their spiritual food."

These words were written by the famous Russian in 1897.

One of the greatest and noblest minds that Russia has produced, Vladimir Solovyov, wrote of anti-Semitism in Russia, in 1884, as follows:—

"I have been called a friend of Jews. Others have reproached me of being blindly prejudiced in favour of the Jews. It is a good thing that I am not suspected of having been bribed by Jewish gold. But I should like to know wherein my prejudice in favour of the Jews is expressed? Have I ever shown the slightest tendency to idealise the Jews?

"As a matter of fact, I am neither a friend nor an enemy of the Jews. But I cannot close my eyes to facts to please the bad taste and low morals of the anti-Semites; I would not, and I could not, wrong myself by following the example of the anti-Semites of holding the Jews responsible for all the sins and all the misfortunes that have befallen us. I do not deny that I am deeply interested in the fate of the Jewish nation, but this is because it is in itself interesting and instructive. But you will say that I sometimes defend the Jews? Yes, to my sorrow, not as often as I wish, or as I should have done it, as a Christian and as a Slav. The Jewish question is in reality a question of truth and justice. In the person of the Jew justice is trampled, for all the persecutions to which the Jews are subjected have not the slightest justification; all the accusations heaped upon the Jews by the anti-Semites cannot withstand the test of criticism—they are for the most part malicious falsehoods.

"The Christian world has never treated the Jews in a Christian spirit. It is not Christian conviction and feeling that prompt the Christians to tolerate the Jews to-day. On the contrary, they are tolerated not because of the broadness of our religious views, but because of the absence of religious views in us, because of complete indifference in the matter of faith. It is not Christian Europe that tolerates the Jews; it is pagan, agnostic Europe that tolerates them." Then Solovyov analysed the Jewish question.

"It is not a question of the Jews, but of the Christian world. The chief interest in Europe to-day is—money. The Jews are the masters of the financial world. After a many-centuried antagonism the Christian world and the Jews have come together upon common ground, upon one common passion for money. But here a great difference manifested itself in favour of the Jews and to the shame of the so-called Christian Europe. While money gives the Jew freedom and uplifts them, money fetters and humiliates us.

"When a Jew grows rich and great, all Jewry grows richer and greater. While enlightened Europe is fond of money not as of a means for some lofty purpose, but solely for the sake of material benefits to the individual possessor. Thus we see that enlightened Europe is the slave of gold, whereas the Jews make gold their slave. It is a parody on the words of the prophet: Ten strangers cling to the cloak of one Jew that he may lead them—not into the Temple of Jehovah, but into the Temple of Mammon, for they care as little for Jehovah as for Christ.

"It is madness to scorn the Jews; it is useless to quarrel with the Jews; it is better to understand them."

Since 1884, when these words were uttered by Solovyov, Russia has undergone many changes. Waves of unrest and discontent swept over the land. The Russian giant in time of war proved himself to be an enormous figure on feet of clay. The general uprising that followed the war gave Russia a Constitution.

But no sooner did the reactionary forces regain their balance than Jewish massacres were ordered. The Jews paid in blood for the Constitution that was wrung from the Tsar for all Russia. And now they are paying in tears, in martyrdom, for the Constitution that has become a corpse! New restrictions, new humiliations and new persecutions have been devised. The Ilidors, the Lutostanskys, the Dubrovins are the favourites of the Tsar. Mad monks, insane priests, and men who have been charged with the murder of representatives of the people are ruling Christian Russia to-day! Judophobomania is seated upon the Russian throne!

When Dobnov, the Jewish historian, brought out a new edition of his work on the emancipation of the Jews in France, he wrote in his preface to the new edition, in 1906, as follows:—