

The Question of the Lithuanians.

THE LEAGUE OF GENTILES.

MR. VERE STENT'S OPINIONS.

We do not as a rule go to the columns of our contemporaries for the purpose of finding matter for our own journal, but Mr. Vere Stent is so well known as a South African journalist of note and one who rarely fails to voice public opinion that we make no excuse for culling the following letter from the columns of our brilliant contemporary, "The Cape."

Needless to say we do not agree with ALL that Mr. Stent has written, but there is such a strong leaven of correctness in his communication that we feel that nothing but good can result from a calm and careful consideration of his letter by the community chiefly concerned:—

"Apropos of your correspondence concerning the 'League of Gentiles'—which, by the way, is a very real organisation and growing stronger every day—I should take it very kindly if you would publish this copy of the main points of my reply to an invitation to join the League. I think it sums up the position.

"It seems to me to begin with ill-named. Its title suggests an anti-semitism which is illogical. the object of the society, I'm told, is chiefly to check and prevent a continuance of the flood of Lithuanian refugees who are at present coming into this Dominion every week, also to counter-balance a movement—with which the Jews are credited, but which they will hardly acknowledge—to constitute Judaism, a powerful, close corporation, to the exclusion of the Gentile, and the exalting of the Jew, and the Jew alone.

"With these two very proper endeavours of the League I am heartily sympathetic. We must at any cost stop this influx of low, Eastern Europeans—or are they rather Western Asiatics?—not because some of them are Jews, but because all of them are 'low whites,' and we have already too many low whites here of our own manufacture.

"Furthermore, if it be true that the Jews are forming some great society—such as the Order of Israel—to organise and consolidate their political and other resources, then such a movement naturally calls for an answer. The answer, however, does not lie in the formation of a League confined to Gentiles. It seems to me that we may not unreasonably look to our better class and public-spirited Jew to join us in calling a halt to the Lithuanian invasion, and to deprecate the organising of their own people on purely religious race lines to the exclusion of all others.

"I can't bring myself—because I have a logical mind, I hope—to join a movement based purely upon antipathy to a certain sect, race or class. As well penalise a man for the sake of the colour of his skin, as a Jew simply because he is a Jew, or for the sake of his race or religion. We have, in South Africa, public-spirited, wealthy, cultured Jews to whom the whole community owes a great deal. I'll mention no names lest I be accused of

sycophancy; names, however, will occur to every one. There are Jews and Jews. Do not let us make the mistake of confusing two classes of Jew. The emissary of Bolshevism, the parasitic immigrant from Russia, the bankrupt—morally, financially and mentally who is now almost daily demanding to be made free of our land and protected by our laws, while he amasses—without creating—wealth, and our own English and South African Jews, who have achieved a higher than mere tribal patriotism, and who realise their duties to the community, which has treated them so much better than any other.

"If the Marks' will is to be cited as an instance of Jewish exclusiveness and the policy of 'The Close Corporation'; then we must not forget the Beit bequests, showing a wide tolerance and a broad patriotism which many a Christian plutocrat might well emulate.

"I'm all for a society which shall not be afraid of the Jews, which shall advocate and demand that the door be shut against any further influx of Russian refugees, even though they be Jews; which shall devote its activities to tightening up the insolvency laws, increasing the punishment for arson, deleting the moneylender, putting a stop to the systematic robbing of the mine natives by the Reef Store Concessionaires and the wayside 'winkels' all over the countryside, and improving our commercial morals generally, and do all these things without concern of race or religion, origin, or colour, actuated by a desire to improve society, rather than by hate or prejudice against the Jew, qua Jew.

"If, in its laudable endeavours to such good ends, the society were to find itself attacked and opposed by the Jews, as a body, as I'm told it would—though I doubt it—then it would be time enough to retaliate, for then the Jews themselves, qua Jews, would have declared war on society, not society on the Jews.

"I have among my very good Jewish friends a doctor, a journalist, a soldier, and an itinerant dealer in hides, who is a follower of Tolstoi. I would not willingly be deprived of any of these friends by joining the League of Gentiles. At the same time, I would mercilessly turn back the Lithuanian influx, despite their most moving entreaties."

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The President of the Dorcas Branch of the Jewish Women's Benevolent Society wishes to thank the public for the great response to her appeal for clothing for the holidays. Parcels may be sent to: Mrs. Browse, c/o Jewish Helping Hand Society, Primrose Building, Frazer Street, Johannesburg.

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Mr. Julius Greenberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. L. Greenberg of Durban, has been notified by the Incorporated Law Society of Natal that he has been awarded the Connor Memorial Prize, having obtained the highest marks in Natal in the final law certificate examination which he recently passed.

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Jewish Women's Benevolent Society.

The tea in aid of the funds of this estimable institution will be held at the Corner Lounge on Tuesday next, the 25th inst., by kind permission of the management. Tickets may be obtained from the Corner Lounge from 10 to 5 daily or from any members of the committee of the Society. The booking opened yesterday and there is every reason to anticipate a complete success. An excellent musical programme has been arranged, including Cantor Pincashovitz, Isa Stalis, Mary Lipschitz, Master J. Sachs and the Corner Lounge Orchestra.

DOAN'S OINTMENT.

Burns, scratches, cuts and bruises should be instantly treated with Doan's Ointment. This anti-septic salve relieves all pain and inflammation. It is also most successful in treating piles, veldt sores and eezema. Price 1/9 and 3/3 per tin. Proprietors Foster McClellan Co., Box 1297, Cape Town.