

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE:

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PLEADING FOR THE JEWS.

THE PROPOSITION TO RECLAIM PALESTINE FOR THEIR USE.

It is the Result of the Recent Conference Between Christians and Hebrews in This City – Full Text of the Memorial Presented to President Harrison by the Rev. William E. Blackstone of Chicago – Many Influential Signers.

The memorial presented to President Harrison by the Rev. William E. Blackstone of Chicago in behalf of the Russian Jews is the result of the conference recently held in this city between Christians and Jews. The circumstances under which it was presented were told in the dispatches from Washington in yesterday's TRIBUNE. The memorial itself is as follows:

Text of the Memorial.

What shall be done for the Russian Jews? It is both unwise and useless to undertake to dictate to Russia concerning her internal affairs. The Jews have lived as foreigners in her dominions for centuries and she fully believes that they are a burden upon her resources and prejudicial to the welfare of her peasant population, and will not allow them to remain. She is determined that they must go. Hence, like the Sephardim of Spain, these Ashkenazim must emigrate. But where shall 2,000,000 of such poor people go? Europe is crowded and has no room for more peasant population. Shall they come to America? This will be a tremendous expense, and require years.

Why not give Palestine back to them again? According to God's distribution of nations it is their home—an inalienable possession from which they were expelled by force. Under their cultivation it was a remarkably fruitful land, sustaining millions of Israelites who industriously tilled its hillsides and valleys. They were agriculturists and producers, as well as a nation of great commercial importance—the center of civilization and religion.

Why shall not the Powers which, under the treaty of Berlin, in 1878 gave Bulgaria to the Bulgarians and Servia to the Servians now give Palestine back to the Jews? These provinces, as well as Roumania, Montenegro and Greece, were wrested from the Turks and given to their natural owners. Does not Palestine as rightfully belong to the Jews? It is said that rains are increasing, and there are many evidences that the land is recovering its ancient fertility. If they could have autonomy in government the Jews of the world would rally to transport and establish their suffering brethren in their time-honored habitation. For over seventeen centuries they have patiently waited for such a privileged opportunity. They have not become agriculturists elsewhere because they believed they were mere sojourners in the various nations, and were yet to return to Palestine and till their own land. Whatever vested rights, by possession, may have accrued to Turkey can be easily compensated, possibly by the Jews assuming an equitable portion of the national debt.

We believe this is an appropriate time for all nations, and especially the Christian nations of Europe, to show kindness to Israel. A million of exiles, by their terrible sufferings, are piteously appealing to our sympathy, justice, and humanity. Let us now return to them the land of which they were so cruelly despoiled by our Roman ancestors.

To this end we respectfully petition his Excellency, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States, and the Hon. James G. Blaine, Secretary of State, to use their good offices and influence with the Governments of their Imperial Majesties:

Alexander III, Czar of Russia; Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India;

William II, Emperor of Germany; Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austro-Hungary; Abdul Hamid II, Sultan of Turkey; His Royal Majesty Humbert, King of Italy; Her Royal Majesty Marie Christiana, Queen

Regent of Spain; and with the Government of the Republic of France, and with the Governments of Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Portugal, Roumania, Servia, Bulgaria and Greece, to secure the holding at an early date, of an international conference to consider the condition of the Israelites and their claims to Palestine as their ancient home, and to promote, in all other just and proper ways, the alleviation of their suffering condition.

Chicago.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, by.....Joseph Medill
The Inter-Ocean.....O. W. Nixon

The Chicago Daily News.....Victor Lawson

Illinois State Zeitung comp.....Washington Hesing

The Chicago Times.....H. J. Huiskamp

The Chicago Daily Globe.....Harry Wilkinson

Chicago Evening Journal.....W. K. Sullivan

Chicago Freie Presse.....Richard Michaelis

The Chicago Herald.....James W. Scott

Northwestern Christian Advocate.....Arthur Edwards

The Interior.....W. C. Gray, editor

The Standard.....J. A. Smith, editor

Chicago Evening Post.....James W. Scott

Chicago Israelite.....Felix N. Gerson

The Advance.....Simeon Gilbert

Record of Christian Work.....F. G. Ensign

The Union Signal.....Julia A. Ames, editor

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[ADDITIONS.—Several petitioners wish it stated that the Jews have not become agriculturists because for centuries they were almost universally prohibited from owning or tilling land in the countries of their dispersion.]

Isaac S. Moses.....Rabbi of Cong'n Anshe Ma'arab.

A. J. G. Lesser.....Rabbi Beth Hamdrash Hajadol U'bre Jacob.

Aaron J. Messing.....Rabbi Cong'n Bnay Sholom