

ly, even while he has much by him, wherewith to provide for his wants. Above all he has faith in the "rachmones" (compassion) of the Jewish race, which, experience tells him, is never appealed to in vain. There is nothing about him of that sturdy independence which has made great a less intellectual people—he whines and means and appeals for alms, when his own right arm should procure by the sweat of his brow the means of subsistence for himself and family. How much he relies on this compassion is evidenced by the disregard he has of all prudence in his marital relations. He marries and gets a family while moaning that he has not bread to eat, and can not earn it for himself, certain that in the end his extreme selfishness will be condoned by his wealthy brethren for the sake of the wife and children he has helped to make parties to his sad condition. This very compassion is answerable for much of the trouble involved in the settlement of these people. A little hardship, such as a German or Irish emigrant endures with equanimity—certain that with industry and perseverance he will overcome it—is magnified by the peculiar philanthropic ideas of our people into a condition of misery such as it ill befits the children of Israel to endure. Our views of comfort are altogether urban—we shrink from the idea of a snow-clad land and a log cabin, even with plenty of fuel at hand to make it habitable, and of all the discomforts inherent on the life of a pioneer—while we take little heed of the miserable city tenements, whole families crowded into a single room reeking with filth and malaria. These are to us the natural consequences of poverty, and, at all events, the sufferers are at our doors, and can be kept from starvation, if from nothing else.

Instead of such a report as your committee has made, a committee sent by a German, Irish or Norwegian Emigrant Society would probably have encouraged the colonists by pointing out that their present discomforts were only temporary; that with the return of spring and another harvest, things would improve; that perseverance after all the expenditure of money would certainly result in ultimate success; that they must try to get along with a trifle of money help to the least fortunate of the settlers, which they would recommend, and that they would take care that such implements and seed as they needed should be furnished along with some body who could instruct them in the necessities of the soil, etc. This committee would understand that to start life in a new country is not child's play—that there are frequent disappointments and some misery, but that after all, success, when obtained, opens out a vista of happiness and independence to which a peddler or small artisan in a city can never reach, handicapped as he is by a large family and competition by more experienced hands.

Your committee dwells on the dreadful condition of the women about to become mothers in such an inhospitable climate, and amid such surroundings, and insist on removing them at once to the genial soil of Denver. Although the population at Cotopaxi is scant, children have been born there even among the colonists. There is a midwife there (the wife of Milchstein) who is represented to be a good person, and whose services have already been availed of. Why she should not be as competent now as heretofore, I am at a loss to understand, and I believe that the necessities of the case would have been fully covered without removal of these women to Denver as proposed, by the supply of a little money to provide them with some comforts, which their special condition required. The course pursued is a sure way to engender future trouble and make it impossible for these people ever to become satisfied without perpetual outside aid.

There are undoubtedly a few families there who, from causes perhaps for which they are not entirely responsible, can not make anything at Cotopaxi by outside work—these should be temporarily assisted, and if the new crop should demonstrate the impossibility of their continuance on the farm, so as to become self-supporting, some other provision should be made for them.

We know that the work at Salida would have been continuous for those that went there, had some of them been willing to submit to a differential scale of wages, but those that received \$1.75 per day wanted \$2.00, such as more skillful hands obtained, and so the whole party got sacker. In the mines we know that continuous work has been given to several of the men at \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day—we know, too, that many of the men have money, and do not pretend that they are needy—we know, too, that with the assistance proposed to be given to them for the spring work, they have expressed themselves in writing (so late as the 11th January last) as perfectly satisfied, predicting for themselves a hopeful future.

Your committee has, we believe, been imposed on to a certain extent, either by the Christian farmers, whom they have seen, or some interested parties—as to the character of the land at Cotopaxi. It is not sterile, and may require in parts irrigation, which may render much labor necessary. The result of last year's crop is no indication of the future. It was planted at least two months later than it should have been, and froze in the ground before, or at maturing. The early indications were for an abundant return of potatoes for the quantity sown and one farmer realized it. If only fifteen bags of potatoes resulted from fourteen sown in one instance, it was because the bulk of his crop got frozen, and not because the land was not rich enough to give a larger return.

At all events we know that other farmers in the neighborhood have succeeded without much of the help given to our people, and we certainly should await another season before arriving at so extreme a conclusion as that come to by your committee.

Your committee is correct in two of its strictures—that with regard to the leases of the town-lots on which six houses are built, not having been executed, but the delay arose from not having blanks at hand at first, and there is no question of their being executed on demand, and that with regard to a competent Colorado farmer being employed to teach these people the requirements of their agricultural work—and these suggestions have due weight—but we are grieved to say that beyond this there is little of value in their report, while the following matters can be proved to be the result of gross misrepresentations by some party or parties in Cotopaxi.

1st. The cost of a house such as is erected by the society fixed at \$100.00 is absurd. It takes about 5,000 feet of lumber, worth in Cotopaxi \$20.00 per thousand, to build it with, and this alone is \$100.00, without labor, nails, tar paper, doors and windows or stoves; \$230.00 would be nearer the mark.

2d. The episode so touchingly expressed as Mitkowsky plunging into the Arkansas River to bring succor to his starving wife and children.

The facts are: Mitkowsky did plunge into and swim across the Arkansas River in July last, when he was a single man, and had no wife or child. It was a Friday evening—he was belated and desired to pass the Sabbath with his friends. A flood had carried away the bridge, he was a good swimmer and took the risk. All honor to him for what he did—there was pluck in the act, and it is not to be wondered at, that this man is said to be one of the best and most successful among the colonists at Cotopaxi.

3d. The two men who earned for a day's work \$1.30 in moving and sawing timber for the railroad.

They did earn \$1.30, but they worked only about three hours to earn it. The company offered them short work at \$1.50 per day; but they preferred to do the job by the piece. The weather was so cold that they knocked off in three hours, one of the men getting his ears frozen, as your committee reports.

In conclusion, I fear that more harm than good has resulted from the kind intentions of our co-religionists of Denver; the morale of the colony is likely to be injured by their action, and our efforts to render these colonists independent are thwarted to an extent now that it will be difficult to re-establish it. We are not inclined to meet your demand for cash to help them beyond a very limited sum to Grupitsky and one or two others, and our experience teaches us that what one family gets the others, although not in want, will certainly demand.

We are unable to determine for the present just what to do, but we would recommend to you that no steps, such as you propose, should be entertained, looking to the removal of these elsewhere, unless you are prepared to take all the responsibility and expense of such a movement.

The publication of the report of the committee was a most unwise proceeding. The whole press of the country, especially the Jewish portion of it, will at once seize the opportunity of giving expressions and advice about a matter of which they have little actual knowledge, and this Society will be forced against its will to publish some such statement as this I have made to put the matter in its true light.

Our Society has no interest to serve; it may have made many mistakes, and this at Cotopaxi may be one of them; but it was hardly courteous to publish such a document, the result of a few hours' investigation, without waiting to hear from us, who have considered the matter for months, as to what we thought of the conclusions arrived at.

I am, gentlemen, yours faithfully,
H. S. HENRY,
President H. E. A. S.

H. S. Henry, Esq., President of the Hebrew Emigrant Aid Society, New York:

SIR:—The so called report of the Denver Committee on the Cotopaxi Colony, signed by one Mr. Kohn and Mr. Witkowsky, has been laid before me, in order to reply to the ignorant and false statements contained therein.

It is only out of respect to you, Mr. President, and your honorable Executive Committee, that I will try to curb my just indignation and do my best to remain within the limits of objectiveness, for the impudent, cynical and unmanly manner in which the honesty of my administration is attacked, and the almost incredible ignorance of the subject which those gentlemen display in their report, which I could justly call "a tale of falsehoods trimmed with stale poetry," would justify me to use expressions stronger than those set forth by the two representatives of the "generous Hebrews of Denver."

Trusting, however, that as far as my integrity is concerned, you will find the proper means to defend one of your officers, I can well omit indulging in any controversy whatever with the poetically-inclined committee of Denver in regard to the honesty of my administration, and shall treat the subject before me "suaviter in modo, fortiter in re."

Anticipating that you, Mr. President, as well as the committee, are cognizant of the circumstance that it was not I on whose advice the colony in Cotopaxi was established; that it was not I who contracted for the erection of the houses, but that it was I who always expressed my opinion that the houses have been charged too high, and that of all the funds expended for the Cotopaxi Colony, only \$3,000, were handled by me, of which sum I have on my return deposited \$127 as unexpended in your treasury, while for the balance I have given sufficient vouchers even for sums as little as twenty-five cents—I can at once go in "mediis res."

The famous report of Denver commences with the history of the Cotopaxi Colony, as copied from my report. Already at the introductory lines we meet with a conspicuous instance of the utter carelessness and the want of study of the case, which those gentlemen willingly undertook or rather snatched up to treat. They say, namely, that since the existence of the colony only one child died, while two children rest in the little cemetery of Cotopaxi, the children of Joseph Nudelman and of David Grupitsky. Of course it would have been burdensome for these two gentlemen to lavish their valuable attention on such a trifle as the life of a poor Russian babe is, but it is characteristic and strikingly proves with how little earnestness the writers of the report went on their work. They brought with themselves no earnestness and hardly any understanding, but a large quantity of gurgles and a nauseating mixture of ignorance and conceitedness.

Ignoring the three lines of poetry that embellish the report and regretting that your honorable committee forgot to communicate its correspondence with Messrs. Kohn and Witkowsky and neglected to solicit the advice of two such practical farmers in settling these people, I find the remark that the houses of the colonists cost \$280, but could have been built for \$100. This remark again shows how utterly ignorant the writers of the report were of their subject. Had they, instead of putting poetry in their report, examined the houses, they would have come to a different conclusion. The material alone—5,000 feet of lumber (the houses are double-boarded with tar paper between them, are sixteen by twenty feet and are twelve feet high in the center), nails, windows, doors, tar paper, stove and cooking utensils, cost more than \$100, not counting the wages of the carpenters. Of course the two practical farming gentlemen knew nothing of the price of lumber, nor do they betray too much knowledge of what a house is composed of. To be sure, three hours' time is hardly sufficient to examine into such trifles, and the gentlemen of Denver were in a great hurry to hasten to their comfortable homes, in order, as the report in its ridiculously fancy language says, "sitting in the parlor, in gown and slippers alongside the hearth," to compose a report, written on legal cap, clad in the vestige of romanticism and falsehood and trimmed with glittering fringes of heart-rending poetry.

It strikes the gentlemen from Denver, as an outrage upon the Hebrew Emigrant Aid Society, that the houses were constructed upon land by the Cotopaxi Placer Mining Company as a town site, and that no leases have been acquired for the lots.

In the first place, Mr. President, you know full well that our society holds a document signed by Mr. E. H. Saltiel, stating that the Placer Mining Company has granted a forty-nine years' lease to the owners of the houses, and as soon as the leases will be drawn up, he will send them to your committee. In the second place, this very statement of the report reflects in the darkest colors upon the earnestness and the competency of the composers of the report. They, namely, after a long "aperçu," exclaim, "What shall become of the sixty-three souls, if perchance the Placer Mining Company should eject them from their grounds?" This remark betrays an almost startling ignorance of the matters of the colony. The gentlemen at Denver seemed to think that the lands of the colonists are on placer mining ground, and that the refugees can be driven away at any time and made homeless. Now the facts are, that only six of the houses are constructed on town lots, that the farms, however, are located on free government land, as my report says on page 5.

I can well afford to ignore the ridiculous passage regarding the description of the lands. The two gentlemen of Denver state that they found no farms, and that especially farm No. 3 must have been visionary with me, or been swept away by the devastating floods that storm down the very same creek, of which the report remarks that "it runs dry in winter, and contains no water in summer." I refer in this respect, to the respective passages in my report on page three, line twenty-three, to the last line on page four. I would further refer to the personal observations of Mr. Morris Tuska, whose word weighs as much as that of Messrs. Kohn and Witkowsky, and who, since twenty-eight years, has been an ornament to American Judaism. He saw the "flower garden" in full bloom, spoke with the owner of the farm, Sholem Chorovsky, settled a family dispute on the spot, and proceeded hence to Wet Mountain Valley, which is one of the most fertile parts of Colorado. Nothing, Mr. President, shows more strikingly the utter ignorance of the Denver Committee than their denial of farm No. 3. While farms No. 1 and 2, on Oak Grove Creek are marked merely by stakes and wire fencing, farm No. 3 is marked by both fence and a house sixteen by twenty feet, which stands just at the front of the farm, alongside the road from Hayden Creek to Wet Mountain Valley. Now if the two investigators did not see the house, they could not have visited farm No. 3; consequently their statement deserves not the least consideration, and must be rejected as an untruth.

But the report goes on in ridiculous description of the lands, and says that the farms have been located in a desert. Well, not less than five Christian farmers produce an excellent crop in quantity as well as quality, and one of them, Mr. Lewis, offered his farm for sale for \$2,500. Under such circumstances it hardly needs any refutation that "a beast can not subsist on these lands."

Not only have the farms on Oak Grove Creek, which, as the report says, is a mean, narrow, strip of land, produced a crop, but even the farms on Wet Mountain Valley—those worthless grounds have yielded, and would have yielded a crop larger in quantity, had not an early frost set in and destroyed it. The grounds must not have been so utterly worthless if it is considered, that despite of the circumstances, that potatoes were sown as late as the end of June, and despite of the heavy hailstorms and the devastations of the thousands of grazing cattle, Loeb Zedek, as he himself states in one of his letters, which I annex hereto, has taken up thirty sacks of potatoes. Zedek's farm is located on Oak Grove Creek, on the very same mean, narrow strip of land, on which, as the two gentlemen remark, "no beast could subsist."

Ignoring these remarks about "the clearest printed book which can not make a man ignorant of the alphabet," about "Paganini" and his "violin," about the "preacher" and the "pulpit"; about the "carpenter" and the "tool chest," I may hasten to finish my statement.

That the colonists had not more than two plows is not my fault. Besides, you know, Mr. President, that upon my requisition, six more plows, rakes, hoes, scythes, hatches, mules, seed etc., were resolved upon to be sent to Cotopaxi, and that all these things would long since have been distributed, had not the Denver people interfered with us, and by their attitude in the matter, succeeded in detaining you from furnishing the above enumerated necessities. As to clothing, I can state that the colonists never suffered for any want of clothing. At the Jewish New Year, when the colonists threw themselves in style, there was a display of dresses and jewelry which astonished me. Black and green silk dresses, heavy gold earrings, rings and bracelets, and other jewelry was to be seen, and there was not one among the whole lot that did not look like any gentleman or lady of Denver. Most of the Russian women paid a dress-maker in Cotopaxi, to make them dresses, and when a box of old women's clothing arrived from New York, the women refused to accept them, saying, "What do we want these old dresses for, we have better ones." On a holiday, I visited three of the Russian houses, and I must confess that I found the tables of Messrs. Nudelman, Chuturn and Zedek, well supplied with bread. No, with meat, cakes, tarts, brandy, wine made of currents, etc. Mr. Zedek showed me a collection of gold and emerald, golden knives, silver spoons, bracelets, watch-chains, and a costly golden goblet from the time of Czar Nicolaus.

This illustrates very strikingly the remark of the Denver report, that "the wives of the Russian refugees were driven almost to distraction in their attempt to obey the natural instinct of mothers to shelter their children, and to save themselves from cold and starvation."

This, Mr. President, is a falsehood, an untruth, and I can not find words in which to express my indignation at such a monstrous misrepresentation of facts. "To save themselves from cold." Why, they can have as much wood as they want, miles of oak trees being at their disposal, besides the coal that the engines throw off alongside the depot. The gentlemen saw the coal and wood in the houses, and still they thought nothing of publishing it in their report "that they freeze with cold." It should be mentioned at this place that your Director, Mr. Rosentiel, has sent the colonists sixteen good warm blankets, and that most have feather beds, and all have received mattresses and pillows.

The report says that the instances of suffering were numerous and pitiful. Of all the instances, the story about the heroic swimming tour appears to them the most pitiful. It was a question of "life and death," says the report. Minkowsky

plunged into the river, and no other man would venture in it. Now, Mr. President, permit me to state that when Minkowsky swam across the river, in company with others, he was a single man and no wife and child were waiting for him as the report says. It was summer, the bridge was swept away by a sudden rain-spout that swelled the Arkansas River, and Morris Minkowsky, who returned from his farm in order to keep Sabbath with his friends and to attend worship in the synagogue in Cotopaxi, unhesitatingly undressed himself, jumped into the river and reached the other side safely. The same thing was done the next day by Joseph Nudelman, Michael Shammes, B. Milchstein and many others, and I myself crossed the river on horseback, in order to be able to inspect the farms on Oak Grove Creek. Besides on Friday evenings all the Russian women used to take a so-called ritual bath in that river, into which to plunge was "a question of life and death."

Another of the instances of suffering is that there is no midwife in Cotopaxi; that there are three women in a delicate condition. "The cries and appeals of these poor creatures, as they contemplate the perils of child-birth, are beyond belief." And further, "In Cotopaxi sickness and death are in store for healthy persons."

Now I am exceedingly sorry that among all my strenuous efforts to civilize these people I forgot all about teaching them the theory of Malthus, and neglected the establishment of a college for midwives in Cotopaxi. But here again is proved how little credence can be attached to Messrs. Kohn and Witkowsky. Above all, the part of Colorado wherein our colony is settled is one of the healthiest in the Union. Of course, Messrs. Kohn and Witkowsky know nothing of the fact that although as one ascends from the level of the sea there is a declension of temperature averaging one degree for every 300 feet of elevation. This is true only when the ascent is made from the surface of the earth, consequently at the base of the Rocky Mountains there is more genial climate and a higher temperature than will be found in the same latitude near the level of the sea. It can be seen now how much truth is in the melancholy but ridiculous remark, "In Cotopaxi sickness and death are in store for healthy persons."

It is an untruth that there is no midwife in Cotopaxi. There is a midwife in Cotopaxi, and her name is Hannah Milchstein. She has attended to the cases of Mrs. Chorovsky and Mrs. Moskovitz skillfully and ably. So there is no earthly need of taking the three crying and appealing women to Denver to make thereby a grand show of cheap charity. Of course the three crying women would go willingly to Denver. Why not?

I hasten now to conclude. All I have to say is so much to the colonists at Cotopaxi were well satisfied with their lands when I left, as the inclosed letters will prove. When Mr. Morris Tuska was in Cotopaxi, and told them to move further on if they did not like their lands, they exclaimed, "We like the land, and we will live and die here." They never entertained any apprehension of starvation, as the letter of Henry Lanterstein hereto annexed will prove, wherein he says: "With victuals we are provided, and hope to be able to pull through over the season."

The farms were in a flourishing condition when I left the colony, and thus I had every reason to believe that the Cotopaxi Colony would be a success. The colonists had their cows, their horses, had to buy no fuel, had work at Salida, whence they were discharged, having struck for higher wages; some of them had money of their own; they had a mutual Aid Society, with about \$100 in the treasury. The goodness of the soil has been proved by the fact that everything was growing, and, despite of the late commencement, thriving, so that the Russians, when they took out their first potatoes, said, in their peculiar way of expressing themselves, "Ach wie ein theures gutes land." (Oh, what a dear, good land.) They wrote several letters to me, stating that they were well pleased with their lands, and one of them, Loeb Zedek, went so far as to write: "Mr. Schwarz, if I enter my house I think I am Baron Rothschild."

Your committee has, on my requisition, voted another \$1,000 to complete the agricultural stock of the colony, and will no doubt take measures to secure the services of a practical farmer to superintend and instruct the people, and thus nothing was left undone to make these people happy and prosperous.

In conclusion I would say that, knowing the nature of Russian, I fear that the morale of the colony has received a great shock, and that the ignorant interference of the Denver people has spoilt what always has been my only aim to reach, viz: to teach these people that while charity is justifiable in cases of distress it was the duty of those that once received charity, and were given a fair start in life, to work out their own salvation by the sweat of their brows. I taught the colonists independence, self-reliance, industry. The Denver people, however, have wrecked my endeavors by opening for them the heavens of "Rachmones" (Jewish compassion).

I now close my statements, and leave the report of Denver, as a falsehood from beginning to end, to the contempt of every just and truth-loving man.

Respectfully submitted,
[Signed.] JULIUS SCHWARZ, LL. D.

"Thurs not to make reply,
Thurs not to reason why,
Thurs but to do and die."

But the quotation is not at all applicable to the case.

Furthermore, it seemed to us that the very nature of the land at Cotopaxi, and the kind of farming required there, was specially adapted to the Russian refugee, whose previous experience had been chiefly in the planting of vegetables, whose physique was less able to battle with the clearing of land, and all the hardships necessarily attending settlement in the West and Northwest.

There was a certainty of occasional work near by, and, furthermore, some of our own people were in the place already, and could render them a moral assistance, if nothing else. In no respect, in any of these anticipations, have we been disappointed.

The possibility of the failure of the colony now is attributable to other causes.

The Russian refugee, as a rule, prefers begging of his fellow-Hebrews to expending money that he has earned by his daily labor (however small that labor may be) for the supply of anything beyond the commonest necessities of life. He likes to hoard his means against a rainy day, and will beg for clothes and help general-