

A SENSATION AT SARATOGA.

NEW RULES FOR THE GRAND UNION.

NO JEWS TO BE ADMITTED—MR. SELIGMAN, THE BANKER, AND HIS FAMILY SENT AWAY—HIS LETTER TO MR. HILTON—GATHERING OF MR. SELIGMAN'S FRIENDS—AN INDIGNATION MEETING TO BE HELD.

On Wednesday last Joseph Seligman, the well-known banker of this City, and member of the syndicate to place the Government loan, visited Saratoga with his wife and family. For 10 years past he has spent the Summer at the Grand Union Hotel. His family entered the parlors, and Mr. Seligman went to the manager to make arrangements for rooms. That gentleman seemed somewhat confused, and said: "Mr. Seligman, I am required to inform you that Mr. Hilton has given instructions that no Israelites shall be permitted in future to stop at this hotel."

Mr. Seligman was so astonished that for some time he could make no reply. Then he said: "Do you mean to tell me that you will not entertain Jewish people?" "That is our orders, Sir," was the reply.

Before leaving the banker asked the reason why Jews were thus persecuted. Said he, "Are they dirty, do they misbehave themselves, or have they refused to pay their bills?"

"Ob, no," replied the manager, "there is no fault to be found in that respect. The reason is simply this: Business at the hotel was not good last season, and we had a large number of Jews here. Mr. Hilton came to the conclusion that Christians did not like their company, and for that reason shunned the hotel. He resolved to run the Union on a different principle this season, and gave us instructions to admit no Jew." Personally he [the manager] was very sorry, inasmuch as Mr. Seligman had patronized the hotel for so many years, but the order was imperative.

Mr. Seligman felt outraged, and returned to New-York in a very indignant frame of mind. He sat down and penned a letter to Mr. Hilton, couched in very bitter and sarcastic terms, also telling Mr. Hilton to publish the letter if he chose to do so, and informed his acquaintances what had befallen him.

Yesterday afternoon an informal meeting of Mr. Seligman's friends and acquaintances was held to consider what action was desirable under the circumstances. Mr. Edward Lauterback, of No. 206 Broadway, counsel to the bankers, occupied the chair. He stated the facts narrated above, and produced a copy of the letter of the banker, which he read.

In this letter Mr. Seligman commented upon the lack of sagacity shown by Mr. Hilton, the insult to the Jewish people, and said that if he did not consider Jews worthy to enter his hotel it would be wise for him to send a circular to all Jews not to make purchases at his Broadway stores. He thought the Jewish people would appreciate this point, and in conclusion gave his opinion that whatever might be the ability of Mr. Hilton to superintend a dry-goods store he was deficient in the necessary training to conduct a hotel. The language was severe and the good points in the letter were warmly applauded by those present.

Mr. Lauterback said that the Jews of this City and country could not afford to let this matter rest. In this century, when the proscription of the Jews in other countries was dying out, it would be shameful to permit it here. There had been at times in the community a desire to slight the Jews, but hitherto this feeling had been confined to ignorant people—"to the small vipers," said the speaker; "but now the big snakes have attacked us, it is time that we awaken and defend ourselves."

A long discussion followed as to what course should be pursued, the immediate question at issue being whether the letter of Mr. Seligman should be given to the press. It was resolved not to give the letter for publication until formal permission had been obtained from the banker. It is probable this will be done to-day.

The programme is to call a mass meeting of the Jewish residents of this City at an early day, and also to invite a number of leading citizens, clergymen, and others, and lay the facts before them, and take such measures as will, it is believed, alter the present opinions of the proprietor of the Grand Union Hotel.

JUDGE HILTON'S STATEMENT.

In the evening a reporter of THE TIMES called upon Judge Hilton at his residence, and found him willing to speak upon the subject. He said that Mr. Seligman was not ejected from the Grand Union. He had been boarding at the Clarendon up to the time of the opening of the Grand Union. He then came over, and "in an ostentatious manner," it seems, demanded the best apartments. If Mr. Seligman had come to Judge Hilton personally, the latter would perhaps have seen to his accommodation. But the management of the house had been placed absolutely in the hands of Messrs. Claire and Wilkinson, because of their special ability to take care of so vast and valuable a property, and they had been instructed to carefully discriminate as to their guests. Mr. Seligman fell under this discrimination, and the Judge wished THE TIMES to give the public the reasons for it.

Judge Hilton does not consider Mr. Joseph Seligman a Hebrew. Years ago, he said, Mr. Seligman absolutely threw overboard the Hebrew Bible and Moses, and he now belongs to the Adler set of Liberals; and this being the case, he but plays the mountebank if he attempts to arouse the prejudices of the Orthodox Hebrew Church by circulating any stories or insinuations to the effect that he was turned out of the Grand Union Hotel simply because he belonged to that ancient faith. Such is not the case, said Judge Hilton. Mr. Seligman is a "Jew" in the trade sense of the word, and the class of Jews he represents, while they are not forbidden to come to the Grand Union, are not encouraged to come. The proprietors have good reasons for this discrimination.

The great secret of Mr. Seligman's present public hostile attitude, Judge Hilton finds easy to account for. The house of A. T. Stewart formerly did a great deal of its foreign banking business through Seligman's firm, and nearly all of their foreign bills of exchange were purchased there; but finding good and sufficient reason for discontinuing its patronage, it transferred it to other houses. Ever since this Mr. Seligman has been spoiling for a fight with Stewart & Co. Stewart & Co. run their business upon purely mercantile principles, and it would be folly for them to at all notice religious prejudices. They employ many Hebrews, and they purchase three times as much from Hebrew houses as Hebrew houses do from them. But Mr. Seligman would like to provoke a caste feeling against the house in revenge for a personal grievance, which he well deserved.

After the late Alexander T. Stewart's death, when Mrs. Stewart began to carry out his charitable wishes, many prominent Hebrew firms, including Stadler & Co., came to her and suggested, and even insisted, that she should direct some share of the estate funds toward Hebrew charities or institutions. But she declined, and they became indignant, and like Seligman, have been fanning up this indignation. Mrs. Stewart, perhaps, had her prejudices; if so, it was her private business; and as she owned and controlled the money, she had a perfect right to allow her prejudices to influence her distribution of it, if she chose to do so. Judge Hilton was merely the Trustee, the custodian of such property as the Grand Union Hotel, and he was in honor bound to so manage it that it at least would not deteriorate during his office. Now this hotel was intended by its founder to be the mode and model for the families of the better and more exclusive classes of society. There are \$2,000,000 in the hotel, and it required extraordinary management to conduct it

properly and satisfactorily to the 2,500 guests necessary to fill it. They do not allow any fee business, or any contribution business, or anything that would intrude upon or among the guests. The idea of the hotel was to make it a family home, where men could leave their families during their absence with perfect security and satisfaction. Such was the espionage that last year not one dollar was lost by any guest. Now the wishes and prejudices of the only class of people who can or will support a hotel like this must, he said, be consulted and followed. The hotel is run for them, and not for those they dislike. Mr. Seligman, Judge Hilton said, belongs to a class of, not Hebrews, but Jews, with whom this class of guests, especially the female portion of them, will not associate and whom they do not wish to be forced to meet, even under the etiquette of the dining-room and parlor of a public hotel. Messrs. Claire & Wilkinson only do their duty as managers by excluding these disagreeable people from their hotel. It is the fault, continued Judge Hilton, of this class of "Jews" themselves that they are discriminated against. Families like the Hendricks and Nathans are welcome everywhere, while those "Jews," (not Hebrews,) of whom Joseph Seligman is a representative, are not wanted any more at any of the first-class Summer hotels. They have brought the public opinion down on themselves by a vulgar ostentation, a puffed-up vanity, an overweening display of condition, a lack of those considerate civilities so much appreciated by good American society, and a general obtrusiveness that is frequently disgusting, and always repulsive to the well-bred.

Judge Hilton asserted that these notorious characteristics of the Seligman "Jew" had almost ruined the Long Branch hotels into which they have been admitted, and said that hotel men all over the country were awakening to it, so much so that a man of this type will soon find no admittance at all to such hotels as the Buckingham, the Windsor, those at Sharon Springs, Saratoga, and elsewhere, and that it even now was a severe tax upon the judgment of the proprietors of these places to admit them.