

JEWS' MISSION IS HERE, SAYS RABBI

Should Carry Forward Work in Land They Call Home,

Asserts Moses J. Gries.

Rehabilitation of Palestine, He Declares, is Not Necessary.

Rabbi Moses J. Gries preached on "The Mission of the Jew," at The Temple yesterday forenoon. He opposed the views of some Jews who have declared the mission of the Jew is now at an end. The mission of the Jew is not alone in Palestine, where the Zionists would have it, but wherever the Jew lives, according to Rabbi Gries.

"It is the fashion nowadays to ridicule the idea that the Jew had still a mission to perform, there being no propaganda for missionary work in evidence such as appears with sectarian Christianity in general," he said. "Though there has loomed up against Jews in recent times a nationalist movement, that agitation of the Zionists, so-called, clamoring for a return to the Holy Land and the rehabilitation of the Jewish state and polity as in ancient times, we dissent by holding aloof therefrom and declare that the place for the Jew is not in Palestine alone, but in the world.

"We maintain in earnest that the Jews have still their mission to perform in the world, notwithstanding the denial of our claim on the part of many and much more formidable organizations for missionary propaganda. Though we fully agree with one of Claude Montefiore's statements recently, that all of those so-called Jews who firmly believe the Jews' mission was at an end, need not regard themselves as Jews any longer, we nevertheless assert that it is our honest belief that their leaving our camp should be looked at as a desertion while fighting the enemy.

"We need every man or woman born in Israel to fight our battles for the best interests of mankind and ultimate perfection of the world as it still is.

"Our dispersion among the peoples on earth is now no longer to be considered as a punishment for our disobedience of God's commandments, but as a blessing to the nations among which we dwell, as a part of their own, as we staunchly maintain and not as a distinct or a separate nation, as those Zionists and most of the so-called class of Jews known as the orthodox try to make it appear.

"We of the liberal section of Jews who try to conform more to the modern ways and style of thought about the world's problems and aims, are set down as assimilationists. Though we may love and revere the Holy Land as the ancient home of our venerable forefathers, we love the land in which it is our lot to live and prosper much more and better, and consider ourselves as among the best element of its people.

"The absolute unity of the God, which all of us unswervingly and forever shall believe and maintain as long as we remain Jews in the world, is what shall distinguish our creed from all other variants from the parent creed and religious belief of the Jew and his ancestors (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob).

"It is, therefore, of transcending importance for us all to still do our full duty unflinchingly and not to absolve ourselves of the solemnly assumed task as given to us as well as to our forefathers standing around Mount Sinai under any flimsy or other pretext whatsoever.

"We should all remain faithful to our glorious standard of eternal and sublime truth and the brilliant exponents thereof to the world under God's own providence for aye."