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From the Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1, page 287.

He was also deeply concerned with the inner conflicts in Jewry, the struggle against the Maskilim and all who had deviated from the true paths. True, in Russia, the Haskalah was yet in its infancy, and had made no significant inroads into the broad strata of the population, which, by and large, remained steadfast in its loyalty. Indeed, many of the most prominent authorities were not afraid of any real breaches being made in the Judaism of the ages, and felt it unnecessary to wage open warfare against a spirit that had infected certain individuals alone. R. Israel thought differently. He regarded this a dangerous beginning, which could weaken the attachment of Jewry as a whole. The way would be left open for the evil to harm the Torah. He always looked far into the future, and would declare: Although the danger might not threaten the nineteenth century, it might possibly change the twentieth. He girded all his strength to ward off that danger.

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