

The RYS Daily 5/22/07 Last Days XIV

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, Part 1 page 331.

Still, R. Israel was far from satisfied. He was afraid that the Baron had only withdrawn in the face of the opposition, but had not changed his mind on the desirability of the institution. This much R. Israel inferred from some intimation in the Baron's remarks that he had relinquished his plans only because of the opposition of the Torah sages. In his letters to his co-workers in Vilna, R. Israel noted: "Since the government order that rabbis are required to be graduates of 'district schools' remains in force, it is to be feared that the nobles will use it to establish at least one such school for rabbis."

He alerted his son-in-law, R. Elijah Eliezer, and R. Isaac Rabinowitz, and proposed that if necessary, R. Elijah Levinsohn of Kretinga be co-opted to aid in their efforts. R. Jacob Lipschitz fulfilled his promise as well. The booklet, instigated by R. Israel, appeared under the title of "Words of Peace and Truth" (Divre Shalom Veemet). It was well received in all circles and exerted a profound influence.

In this way, R. Israel averted the threat to the survival of Russian Jewry by his wise strategy. He did not foment any quarrel or dissension. Nor did he impair the unity of Russian Jewry, so vital to the effectiveness of communal endeavor in the existing circumstances.

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