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THE BOYCOTT OF THE JEWS

Saturday, <sup>on</sup> April 1<sup>st</sup> was a nightmare. It was the day the persecution of the Jews began. Less than four weeks after Hitler came to power. That morning orchid-colored signs appeared on all the Jewish-owned stores along the Kurfersteendam.

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"Attention! Jews! No Visit Allowed" read one. Another: "Don't Fatten the Jews As Long as One German Is without Work." Another: "Germans, Defend Yourself! Don't Buy from Jews!" And another: "Every Mark in a Jew's Hand Flees the German Fatherland." And still another: "With the Money the Jews Stole, They Pay for Inflammatory Propaganda Abroad."

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Amothers  
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On one of a chain of stores was posted a leaflet that <sup>read</sup> said: "This store is owned by Nathan Schmidt, whose name sounds like a German's. But pull off that mask. He is a Jew and besides, he pays his people starvation wages."

"Juden" was scrawled in red on the windows of stores owned by Jews and smears of paint blotted out the names of Jewish doctors, and lawyers, and notaries from the plaques in front of their offices.

Nazis stood before all the posted stores to blocked the path of any who tried to enter. Outraged, Mark brushed by one guarding the door at Wertheim's with a brusque, "Go to hell and get out of my way!" <sup>he said</sup> inside

that vast store he found only four persons besides the clerks.

The café where Mark and I usually ate, owned evidently by a Jew, was shut tight and the Jewish newsboy from whom we bought the London Times and New York Herald (Paris edition) was not at his place. A pamphlet, "Juden Raus!" was being sold on the streets by men in Nazi uniforms.

~~AL~~ <sup>Curious</sup> Crowds moved ~~curiously and restlessly~~ <sup>(roamed)</sup> up and down the avenue, watching the Nazi storm troops as they strutted from place to place. A great many ~~of them~~ were young people. "Too young," Mark remarked, "to know what they believe further than what they have been taught."

~~AL~~ <sup>On getting back to the pension Mark threw up.</sup>  
~~On getting back to our pension, he threw up.~~

Some days later, ~~when he was able to think clearly,~~ he wrote for the Telegraph a bitter account of the day and the speeches and actions that <sup>had</sup> led up to it.

"When I was very young," he began, "I rode one day upon my sorrel mare and came across some older boys torturing a cat. They had it tied to a pole in the center of a ring they had made, and were putting it to death by slow and painful processes until one boy, out of mercy, delivered a coup de grâce with an ax...."

"A day or two ago I watched the power of a great government of the world turned upon a small fraction of its citizens in an exhibition of sadistic cruelty that has not been matched in the modern world and equalled only in the Middle Ages. The reaction as I watched the boycott

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of the Jews in Berlin was the same as that in the three or four seconds in which I saw the cat tortured: shame and humiliation."

For twelve years Hitler had been promising the German people to "liquidate" the Jews just as the kulaks had been liquidated in Russia. He had been saying <sup>he had said,</sup> the Jews were responsible for all the suffering the Germans had endured. He had been saying <sup>he said,</sup> they were profiteers, <sup>he</sup> although Hitler and everybody else knew that most Germans' fortunes were <sup>had been</sup> wiped out in the inflation and only those who possessed real property <sup>had</sup> came through with anything. [He had been saying that Jews flooded in from Galicia and other Russian and Polish provinces to feast on the <sup>German</sup> carcass of dying Germany. He had been saying the Jews <sup>ing</sup> maintained sweatshops and <sup>taking</sup> took advantage of unemployment. He had been saying they used their positions, <sup>he said</sup> to put other Jews into positions so that, although they composed only <sup>1</sup> one percent of the population, they held <sup>11</sup> eleven percent of the wealth and <sup>90</sup> ninety percent of ~~the~~ public <sup>offices</sup> positions. <sup>discredited</sup> Even a casual survey indicated the impossibility of the <sup>last figure</sup> latter and at least raised questions about the other <sup>figures</sup> figures. <sup>Nonetheless</sup> But anyway, that was Hitler's story. When he won his ~~great~~ victory on <sup>March</sup> ~~March~~ 5, his followers began to take him at his word:

At the outset of our German stay, metropolitan

Handwritten notes: "He said", "OK", "surely?"

Handwritten note: "chang. say?"

Handwritten note: "AU not a carcass until dead?"

Handwritten note: "last of 3"

newspapers of the United States and other countries knew more than we did <sup>about what was going on</sup> for they had experienced correspondents <sup>on the scene were</sup> in the country devoting full time to this one story. They published accounts <sup>of events</sup> that, unfortunately, we did not see until <sup>the</sup> ~~this~~ anti-Semitic wave broke over Berlin.

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But what kind a newspaper?

"Sporadic outbursts against the Jews had been going on," Mark wrote somewhat belatedly in <sup>one</sup> ~~his~~ dispatch. "Nazi followers here and there were carrying out the Hitler policy and newspapers of other countries were getting on to incidents. A Communist body was being <sup>it</sup> ~~found~~ here and there. One poor fellow who, according to the government, had committed suicide in dejection, had <sup>thirty-five</sup> 35 bullet holes in his body, indicating <sup>i</sup> ~~that~~ he had <sup>not</sup> ~~only~~ <sup>suffered</sup> ~~dejection~~ but <sup>had</sup> a pump gun and a most extraordinary capacity to <sup>v</sup> take it. <sup>v</sup>

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"There <sup>v</sup> ~~went~~ out, too, other stories, such as that which got into the London Times: the story of a Jewish social worker, mother of children, eminently respect<sup>ed</sup> ~~able~~ in her community, who was taken from her bed, escorted to a Nazi rendezvous, stripped and beaten with sticks and canes until the blood ran and then, with mock courtesy, was escorted down the stairs and out of the <sup>#</sup> place.

3 sent

"The publication of such <sup>v</sup> stories, ~~and others~~ <sup>v</sup> like them aroused the ire of the government... There began

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to appear in the kept German press. All of it is either owned or terrified by the government. Stories that Jews and Communists were using their money to corrupt the foreign press against Germany ...the press of Germany worked itself under government direction into a lather about the <sup>V</sup>atrocities propaganda. W

Mark told of a conference at Munich "out of which came the announcement that the Nazis were organizing a national boycott of Jewish stores....The announcement said that the boycott was not being conducted by the government, but since 'the demand for it had been spontaneous and overwhelming, the government had decided to take charge to prevent bloodshed.' The Chancellor himself did the Jews the honor of outlining the plan for their punishment.

"The Nazis issued instructions to Jewish stores to remain open...so they could be boycotted....The idea was that the Jews must stand up so they could be better hit. The newspapers were warned that if they did not 'cooperate' in the boycott, they would be forbidden, and so all cooperated, even to the Mosse and Ullstein press, Jewish owned....One Ullstein paper did have the temerity to inquire whether the Nazis were quite sure they had thought out all the implications of what they were doing."

~~Though Mark wrote that Nazi bands played on the night before the boycott and Nazi stragglers walked~~

about the streets shouting, we did not hear them. We had gone to bed early after a long day of sightseeing. Nor did we hear Dr. Goebbels, "minister of propaganda and elucidation", make a speech, broadcast over radio, to all Germans, denouncing the Jews and inflaming his audience so that there were outbreaks of "Hang them" when the names of Einstein and Feuchtwanger were mentioned.

"They say we have raped Jewish women," Dr. Goebbels said, "but they know that Germans have better taste."

The grim machine of liquidation of the Jews moves on," Mark continued. "All Jewish teachers in public schools of Germany have been dismissed. The doctors have been dismissed from the hospitals. The lawyers have been put on quotas. Hitler said he would allow Jews offices and professions only in relation to their numbers, about one percent of the population; so that there are only 35 Jewish lawyers allowed in Berlin, a city of 5,000,000 or 6,000,000. There were 1,300 until a few days ago. What is to happen to the others nobody knows. The doctors, too, are to be put on quotas....Jews have been advised by the University of Berlin that their attendance is not forbidden, but because it might cause trouble, they had best not attend. At Frankfurt the famous University

there has put the Jews on quotas, a humiliating confession of inferiority by the lordly Nordics who rule Germany.

"Hitler is giving them [the people of Germany] the 'circus,' the Roman holiday of sadism, but so far no bread. After a while, when the 'circus' is over, they will say, 'But what about the bread? And jobs?'

of When Germany understands through a voice yet still that prosecuting Jews does not bring bread but only more misery from a world that isolates her because of it, then will come the reckoning. It will be too late to save the schoolteachers who have been dismissed; it will be too late to save the lawyers who have been turned out of their offices (and moving vans all over town are busy today). It will be too late to recall the humiliation of the horrible stickers and posters on Jewish stores. It will be too late for all save some form of restitution befitting a civilized nation."

That acts far worse than boycotts and quotas would befall the Jews in Germany never crossed Mark's mind. No one could have imagined the horrors to come. He thought they had already suffered the ultimate degradation. <sup>the Jews</sup>

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