

3: Excerpts from letters: Yosef Klausner, 1903, and S. Y. Abramovitsh, c. 1904, respond to “In the City of Slaughter.”

S. Y. Abramovitsh, as reported by Yitshak Dov Berkovitch

Nu, Bialik! [...] when he writes a poem, I find in it both feeling and thought, and he always comes to say something that is entirely his [... But] I still cannot forgive him for the Kishinev matter -- I mean that poem that he wrote after Kishinev which so shook up the [Jewish] world. Just imagine, would you, that wild beasts, the worst scum of the human race, were to attack me and my wife and my children, were to murder and kill and carry out every kind of abomination, were to afflict me with every kind of torture -- and someone were to come along afterward like some preacher, and moralize at me and throw salt on my wounds [...] as though the people itself were guilty and the guilt was in them... have you ever heard such a thing in all your days?!