



5674 REFLECTIONS.

JOHANNESBURG JEWRY'S RECORD.

AMALGAMATION PROSPECTS.

THE ONE IMPERFECTION AND THE IRRECONCILABLES.

He that does not learn from his experience is worse than a fool; but to be enabled to study the lessons taught by experience there must be a period of reflection set aside for such study, and that period must be fully utilised. Our religion recognises this great truth, and sets aside a period of reflection—a Day of Memorial—in the year, on which it is intended for us to look back on our individual record of the past twelvemonth.

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And here let it be noted that there are two records for our individual selves—an outer and an inward one—one which the world has seen, and one which is only known to our own inward selves. Oh, if only the world could see that record which is revealed to our inner consciences and if only that seen by the world were the sum total of our past year's record! What different beings we would then be to what we really are! So much, however, *en passant*.

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Looking back on our record as a community in the year just concluding, the question arises whether Johannesburg Jewry has any reason to congratulate itself on what it has achieved or to blame itself for what it has left undone or, what is much worse, for what it should have left undone. Taken on the whole, and after careful consideration of what has transpired during the previous twelve months, I think that Johannesburg Jewry has no reason to feel ashamed of its record for 5674, and that, moreover, on the contrary, it is justified in saying that it has done very well, indeed, especially when the surrounding circumstances are taken into consideration.

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I have not the space here to give an adequate record of the local Jewish community in the past year—for that I must refer readers to the article entitled "Johannesburg Jewry in 5674" in the Rosh Hashona Annual Supplement of this publication, which is issued with to-day's *Chronicle*. The opening of the New Synagogue and the change in the prospects of the amalgamation scheme, are of course the two outstanding features of 5674 for Johannesburg Jewry, and whilst

the one is an accomplished fact, the other will no doubt have the completing touches given to it in the earlier half of 5675. But as has already been remarked on this page, no matter what will be the outcome of the amalgamation question, so much has already been done in this matter and the community has advanced so far towards its solution once for all that even if at this eleventh hour amalgamation is again put off Johannesburg Jewry will never again be what it was before the negotiations for union started.

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If union is not accomplished this time, then it will be much worse for Johannesburg Jewry than it was in the pre-union-negotiation days; whilst, on the other hand, if amalgamation does take place then it will be not only much better than now for the local community as a whole, but much better, too, than it has ever been. It is to be hoped that the irreconcilables in both camps are realising in the present adverse circumstances what the failure of union will mean to the community as a whole, and that they have come to see that now is the time for sinking all differences in a common endeavour for the general good of the community. Everything human is bound to have something imperfect in its composition, otherwise it would not be human, but angelic—and these lines are not written for angels but human beings.

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The amalgamation scheme being a human conception must therefore be imperfect somewhere, but its imperfection is so small in comparison with the good that it will confer on the community that even the irreconcilables ought to recognise this and work for its adoption by the bodies concerned. It is unfair for those irreconcilables to magnify the imperfection above referred to to such an extent that it assumes a size altogether out of proportion to its real worth and value in the amalgamation scheme as a whole.

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This magnifying is done by concentrating all criticism and argument round the one point, and it is

almost public property now that this is being done. I do not say that this is really the case, but if it is, then, as I have said above, it is to be hoped that the good of the community will be considered, for if that good is sincerely and whole-heartedly thought of then amalgamation will be agreed to by all, without exception.

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As Mr. I. M. Goodman remarked at an important meeting of the Old School:—"We must regard this question from a Communal and not from a congregational point of view, and," I would also add, not from a personal point of view.

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After all, we are all Jews, and before our God it matters not in what synagogue we worship. And especially now, in the present Penitential Season, it is incumbent upon us to, in the words of our "Rosh Hashona" liturgy, make one band to do God's will with a perfect heart, and as soon as this is accomplished, and Johannesburg Jewry united in "one band," with distinctions of "Old" and "New" in communal matters entirely obliterated, then will there indeed be for the community whose Stoep I inhabit "A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR AND WELL OVER THE FAST" of our past years of disunion.

VERITAS.

S.A. PARTY CLUB.—Another of the Club's popular ladies' nights was held on Tuesday evening, and proved quite a success. A large number of people took the floor and spent a joyful evening in indulging in the fascinating Terpsichorean art. To-night (Friday) the usual Club dinner takes place, and on Sunday evening next the concert, timed to start at nine o'clock, will be really worth listening to, in view of the excellent programme that is being arranged for that evening.

CRICKET MATCH FOR WAR FUNDS.—The following teams have now been definitely selected to play in the above match at the Wanderers on Sunday, the 20th instant, commencing at 11.15 a.m.:—*Transvaal Cricket Union 12*: Sir Abe Bailey (Captain), P. W. Sherwell, S. C. Brown, M. Hathorn, G. Allsop, G. A. Morris, R. P. Fitzgerald, T. Campbell, J. W. Zulch, C. D. Dixon, R. Beaumont, J. Reunert; *Stage 22*: Leonard Rayne, (Captain), Harold Ashton, John Tiller, J. Langley Levy, R. Ward Jackson, L. R. MacLeod, Len Wallis, Cyril Dowley, Bob Young, Capt. Dwyer, A. S. Homewood, A. Marsburg, D. J. Meintjes, E. A. Halliwell, A. W. Walshe, J. H. Tandy, C. Glyn, V. Filmer, J. H. Piton, G. St. L. Devenish, F. Marx, H. J. G. Bennett, (Reserve) Fred Wolgast.

Read the South African Jewish Chronicle.