



### The Prohibition of Polygamy.

An interesting decision concerning the attitude of the Jewish religion toward polygamy was handed down by a British judge in Bombay, India. A defendant, charged with polygamy, Mr. Benjamin, argued in court that as he is a resident in India he has the same rights as the Moslems and the Hindus. He also argued that the Bible does not prohibit polygamy, but that polygamy has been prohibited only since Rabenu Gershom in the twelfth century with the growth of the Jewish communities in Europe. The court decided that Jews living in India are subject to the laws of Great Britain.

This decision is a very important one particularly here in South Africa where I understand that it is no uncommon thing for a co-religionist from Eastern Europe to forget his marital ties in the country from whence he came and to contract fresh ones in this country. This I do know. That the hard-working secretary to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies has quite a lot of his time taken up in replying to queries as to the whereabouts of missing husbands from Russia, Poland and similar countries of Central Europe. Now that these delinquents learn that it is in opposition to Jewish law as well as to British regulation for them to contract a further marriage until the other has been dissolved, they will probably refrain from committing this offence against decency—and may I add?—commonsense!

### A Great Concert.

The concert in the Town Hall, Johannesburg, on Wednesday last to bid farewell to the Rev. Wilder, who is leaving in the near future for America, was undoubtedly a great success. It was unfortunate that the reverend gentleman, owing to a sad and sudden bereavement was unable to be present or to take part and all will, I know, sympathise with him in the great loss he has sustained. But, *revenue a nos moutons*, with the exception of my friend the City Organist, John Connell, all the artists were of our faith and the large audience whilst thorough appreciating their efforts was really more anxious to hear the renditions of *chazonus* by the cantors who took part in the programme. First came the Rev. A. M. Kaplan, of the Jeppestown Congregation, who is the possessor of a powerful voice, then the Chief Cantor of the Pretoria Congregation, Cantor Zwick, an exceptionally sweet singer, and thirdly our old friend who is now resident in Capetown, namely Chief Cantor Steinberg, P.S.M.D. Although I have a fairly good knowledge of the meaning of letters after a person's name—and just a slight one of words some people use when referring to other people by name—I could not for the life of me decipher the meaning of "P.S.M.D." Still what does this degree matter since all enjoyed listening to Cantor Steinberg letters or no letters. The gems of the whole of the programme were the singing of Chief Cantor S. Pincasovich. "Sweet Singers in Israel" we have heard but Chief Cantor Pincasovich is one of the very sweetest and his renditions both of sacred pieces as well as of "On with the Motley" and the Wine Song from "Undine" were such that the audience was

loth to part with him. If I may make a suggestion to the Wardens and Council of the United Hebrew Congregation it is this. That when and if his duties permit could they not arrange for their Chief Cantor to give a concert or two to consist solely of sacred selections. Johannesburg Jewry would not only pay well for this but would appreciate being afforded such an opportunity. At the same time a concert or concerts of this character would certainly tend to awaken that love which our people have for our own melodies.

### "The Rabbi could not take part."

I read in our daily contemporaries the other day of an unedifying police court case in which our co-religionists were the chief actors. It appears that two of them were charged with assaulting the third one and, in the usual mass of evidence that invariably comes to light in such cases, most of it irrelevant to my mind, a rabbi was present in the room and the question was asked why did he not go to the assistance of the complainant? I would have thought that the parties concerned would have shown some respect for the reverend gentleman and not have descended to fighting. I have no doubt that the rabbi did possibly call upon them to desist but their passions must have run away with them. Perhaps, in the future, when some of our young men are pugnaciously inclined they will give us the opportunity to see what latent boxing talent we have in our midst by agreeing to join the Guild Boxing Section where all facilities are provided for improving oneself in the noble art of self-defence. Who knows but that by adopting this way of settling private differences, possible court cases may be averted and we may discover a potential Jack Dempsey or Carpentier! And then look at the height of success the white hope would achieve. We have had great fighters in Israel before. Why not again and in South Africa too!

### An Inter-marriage Poem.

Although bearing a very cautious title—"Opposites Attract"—the following poem by Henry Harrison in *The New York Sun* is quite apropos of the inter-marriage question:—

Like blood, like god, like age make for happy marriage,

I should have known. But now it is too late,  
For we are bound together like the covers  
Of a book that have a common barrier  
Between them. Your blood is not my blood,  
Nor is your god my god, nor is your age  
My age. The beauty of your face has faded  
Like a rainbow. Oh! I should have known  
That beauty cannot live, that beauty is  
A mask above a dross. I should have known  
That yellow hair, and gleaming eyes, and velvet  
Lips are not enough. But now it is  
Too late. The silken cord that tied us is  
More powerful than ever. Oh! our lives  
Are far too centered to bestow on us  
Our freedoms. I should have known that like  
Blood, like god, like age make for happy marriage—  
Now it is too late.

### "CHAZAN."

Required for the Bloemfontein Hebrew Congregation. Commencing Salary £500 per annum. Duties to commence next Passover. Applications with copies of Testimonials must reach the undersigned not later than January 31st next. Qualification of Shochet and Mohel will be an additional recommendation.

THE SECRETARY,  
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