

My Dear Children,

I am sure all of you must be very sorry indeed to learn that so dear an old friend of yours as Aunt Rachel will no longer be writing to you on this page. Please do not think, however, that she will not be interested in you and in all that you do. Her love does not end because she will no longer be writing to you each fortnight. You can be certain that she will be interested in all her little nephews and nieces and I feel sure that she would like you to help me in the conduct of this page, so that the tree she has so well planted will continue to bear fruit.

And now I take up my pen to address my nephews and nieces for the first time. I am really quite afraid and I know that you, too, must feel a strangeness at my approach. After all I am a new comer. You do not know me and I have not had the pleasure of meeting you all before. Let us, however, now become acquainted. I feel sure I shall be happy with you all and very proud if you will be able to tell me soon that you like me.

Once a fortnight we shall be speaking to each other on this page. Of course, I shall do most of the talking. We elder people are a little selfish that way; but remember that I am also a good listener. I want you to come to me through your letters, with all your little troubles and worries and joys. Any among you who have any literary talent will be encouraged by me and I shall publish your contributions—if of merit—so that all my little readers will be able to enjoy them.

THE SHEKEL.

THOSE among you who have older brothers and sisters will find that the latter will be very busy on Sunday next in selling the Shekel—for next Sunday is Shekel Day throughout South Africa.

Do you know, dear children, what Shekel Day means? It is now over thirty years since the idea was established by which the Shekel became the sign of the revival of our people as a nation. It was Theodor Herzl—the founder of modern Zionism—who created the idea, and throughout the world Jews annually purchase the Shekel. The cost of the Shekel varies in different countries, but in South Africa the price is two shillings and sixpence.

By means of the money raised by the sale of the Shekel, the Zionist Organisation is enabled to carry on its great work for us in organising Jews throughout the world for national endeavour.

I hope that when the Shekel collector calls at your homes, you will see that your parents purchase a Shekel, not only for themselves, but for each of you. You should take great pride in buying your Shekel and becoming in this way nationally conscious young Jews and Jewesses.

A BOY VIOLINIST.

I am sure you will be interested to hear that there is the prospect of a visit to South Africa being made by Yehudi

OUR CHILDRENS PAGE

Contributed by

AUNT SARAH

Menuhin, the young master violinist, who is now regarded by leading critics as a rival to Kreisler, the greatest violinist of the day. Menuhin has just returned

Guidance

By Felice G. Lewis (Age 12).

I spoke to God in the meadow
On a lonely summer's day.
And asked Him for an Angel-Guide
To watch and guide my way.
"She must be pure," I told the Lord,
"She must be kind and good
And must keep me from dangers all,
I want that understood.
"She must guide me thro' all channels
Out of the clutch of death.
Please send me one from Heaven,
Lord,
For I've scoured all the earth."
The Lord spake, and the meadow green,
Which then with noise was filled,
Seemed hushed, and the frisking woodchucks
And squirrels, their chatter stilled.
"Oh foolish one," His voice was sweet,
"I've sent one. Why another?"
"You never sent me one," said I.
Spoke He. I sent your mother,
"There's none so good there's none so pure,
She'll always guide you through.
"Remember that, my little girl,
And luck will come to you."

Our Poem Competition

The above poem was written by a little American Jewish girl, only 12 years of age and published in "The Jewish Exponent" of Philadelphia. Is there a South African Jewish child who could write an equally fine poem? Those who are poets among you send your poems to me. I will give a prize for the best contribution sent in.

to America from a world tour during which his playing has created a furore.

Yehudi is now in his fourteenth year and is a healthy and happy youngster

who does not realise his own greatness. When he comes here there will be many of you, no doubt, who will listen to this brilliant young exponent of the violin.

It may interest you to know that Yehudi practices on the violin every day, not because he has to, but because he loves the instrument and loves playing on it. He adores his violin as if it were a human being and takes care of it as an elder brother would of a little sister.

I suppose you are interested to learn about Yehudi's school studies. Be assured, therefore, that his general studies are not neglected because of his music. He studies Hebrew and is very much interested in Palestine. The young boy is very proud of his Jewish name and would not change it. He likes to act as "father" to his young sisters who adore him. If anybody tells Yehudi Menuhin that he is a child prodigy, he feels very insulted. He wants to be regarded as an artist and to be judged according to the same standard as players like Heifetz, Ellman and the rest.

At the same time he is human enough—and I am sure all my children will be glad to hear this—to eat carloads of ice-cream. There is one thing, however, which he loves more than "candy" and that is listening to good music. He is a charming playmate and very popular among the youngsters of his age. A fine boy of whom we Jews should be very proud!

AUNT SARAH'S FUND.

ONE of the wonderful things which Aunt Rachel did was to arrange for you children to make up small collections, which were distributed with your consent to very worthy objects. You will remember that some time ago you all collected the amount of one thousand pounds and that you children have already collected the further sum of £348 13s. 2d. towards the Second Thousand Pounds.

I am sure you wish to continue this splendid work. And now that the "Children's Page" is to be conducted regularly again, I trust that my nephews and nieces will arrange to continue to hold functions and collect monies—all of which will be acknowledged on this page and distributed as hithertofore to the objects which had the interest and devotion of Aunt Rachel.

HOW MANY JEWS IN SOUTH AFRICA?

THERE have been a number of entries in the competition for a book prize to the child who could give most correctly the figures as to the number of Jews in the Union of South Africa. I still want a few more entries, before I decide who is the winner in this interesting competition.

Please write and tell me how many Jews, in your opinion, there are in Johannesburg, Capetown, Durban, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, East London, Bloemfontein, Kimberley and in other centres.