

My Dear Children,—
I AM introducing this week an entirely new feature. You will find printed below the Hebrew and English version of the first verse of the Jewish National Anthem. I have noticed at Jewish meetings that many people appear to be unaware of the words, and I feel that, in view of the coming Keren Hayesod campaign, we should all be prepared to join in lustily in this, our song. Of course, you may be unable to read the Hebrew words. If this is so, and from most of your letters I am led to doubt the possibility, ask your parents or your Hebrew teacher to read them aloud for you. You understand, I am sure, that it would be stupid to sing a national song in the language of another nation. We must, on this of all occasions, use our own tongue—Hebrew.

Naphtali Hertz Imber.

Since we are speaking of Hatikvah, I think it would be as well to give you a short sketch of the life of the author of its words, Naphtali Hertz Imber. Imber was a Hebrew poet of some merit. He was born in Zlocozow, Galicia, in 1856. (Galicia was at that time a portion of Austria.) As a child he received that Hebrew-Jewish education which was part of the life of all Jews of those times. While he was still young he showed a wandering spirit, and during the course of his life he visited many countries and came to know many people.

Hurrah Jerusalem!

From his birthplace he travelled to Vienna and thence to Constantinople. In this city he met Laurence Oliphant and his wife. The Oliphants had no children, and they were among the first Gentiles to become supporters of the idea of a Jewish home in Palestine. To this end they devoted their money and their time. They more or less adopted Imber. With them he went to Palestine. So excited was he on arriving there that he wrote a letter to a friend containing the sole words, "Hurrah, hurrah, Jerusalem!"

England and America.

When Oliphant died Imber travelled to England, and having met Israel Zangwill (one of the most famous of Jewish writers), worked with him on the "Jewish Standard," a paper edited by Zangwill.

In 1892 he found his way to America and in Boston ran a paper, called "Uriel." Always he was moved by a feeling for mysticism; by a feeling that influenced the chassidim, the Jews who felt most strongly that there was something, strange and hidden, that could not be found in ordinary life. He wrote, during his stay in America, many fine Hebrew poems. And, while staying with Baron Moses Waldberg, in Jassy, Roumania, he wrote the words of Hatikvah, the great cry of hope of the Zionists.

The Music.

Imber wrote the words; but who wrote the music it is not known. It is thought that the music came from a Palestinian song; but what is more probable is that it came from Roumania, was a folk-song there. This opinion is strengthened when we hear a certain piece of music written by Schemetana, the Roumanian composer, for that music very closely resembles Hatikvah.

Singing Hatikvah.

I hope, when you write to me in the near future, to hear that you have learnt the words given you. I want you, further

OUR CHILDREN'S PAGE

Contributed by

AUNT SARAH

to remember that you are singing a song of hope, and not a psalm of misery. This is a fact that most grown-ups forget, and as a result Hatikvah is generally sung sadly and slowly, instead of joyously. See if you can teach your elders how to do the thing properly!

הַתִּקְוָה.

כָּל עוֹד בְּלֵבֵב פְּנִימָה
 נִפְשׁ יְהוּדֵי הוֹמִיָּה
 וּלְפִאֲתֵי מִדְּבָר קְרִימָה
 עֵץ לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה —

עוֹד לֹא אֲכַדֶּה תְּקוּתָנוּ
 הַתִּקְוָה הַנּוֹשָׁנָה
 לְשׁוֹב לְאַרְץ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
 לְעוֹר בָּהּ דְּוֹד הַנָּה:

HATIKVAH.

Translated from the Hebrew of N. H. Imber by Nina Salaman.

*While ever yet unchanged within his breast,
 The inmost heart of Israel yearns,
 And seeking still the borders of the East,
 His loving gaze to Zion turns—*

*So long our hope will never die,
 Yea, this our hope, through ages felt,
 Back to our fathers' land to fly,
 Home to the height where David dwelt.*

The Puzzle.

I am not giving the solution of the last problem, as I have received very few answers, and only that of Samuel Singer was correct. Nor am I setting a new problem. Indeed, I want to make a suggestion. I want you all to write to me, and to tell me what kind of test or competition you like best. Then, week by week, we will try each suggestion sent in. Of course, if I don't hear from you I shall continue in my own way; and perhaps you might not like that as well. I will wait for the next two issues before making up my mind.

Answers to Correspondents.

Chaiele Rabinowitz (East London).—I must congratulate you on working out the "Deborah" diamond puzzle. But why haven't I received an answer to the problem of the last issue? You must not spoil your record. I regard you as one of the people who always write to me and who always solve problems.

Be tie Segal (Naauwpoort).—I found your long letter very interesting. It is good to discover a young person who has so much feeling for Hebrew and Jewish affairs in general. If you want to enjoy a greater chance of being "next year in Jerusalem," give all support to the forthcoming Keren Hayesod campaign.

Mervyn Rubinstein (Thaba 'Nchu).—Thank you very much for your donation. I am not surprised that you enjoyed the Pesach celebrations. All good Jews do, especially when they are called upon to ask the questions, as you were. Write again soon, and try to answer the problems.

Mona Rubin (Petrusburg).—You were clever to think of holding a party to raise funds. Remember to do the same for the Keren Hayesod campaign. I am sorry to hear about your hand injury. Have you recovered? Write me a longer letter soon.

Aubrey Katz (Strand).—Of course your letter was of interest to me, but I am surprised that you did not write yourself. I see that you are not as nervous as I thought; that is really lucky. Keep up your Hebrew, so that if you visit Palestine you will be able to speak it. Next time you raise funds, think of the Keren Hayesod.

Samuel Singer (Thaba 'Nchu).—I was pleased to receive another letter from you, and was very proud to see that you had solved the diamond puzzle. Your Hebrew writing is fine. There can be no doubt that I shall soon receive your promised letter. See how many times you can come top of your class this year. Give my love to your brothers.

WISDOM FROM THE TALMUD.

The greater a man is the greater is his temptation.

Study is balm against temptation. If the evil inclination assails thee, draw it into the house of learning. If it is a stone, it will be ground to powder; if it is iron, it will be split into shivers.

Learning without a calling is ruinous, and leads to sin.

The instruction of youth may not be disturbed even to build a temple.

Knowledge is more than priesthood and dignity of kings.

If thou hast attained knowledge, what lackest thou? If thou lackest knowledge, what hast thou attained?

Let no man resolve: I will dedicate myself to study in order to secure the title of a wise man, a scholar, and attain dignity. But let him study out of love for knowledge; honour will come of itself in good time.

Aunt Sarah's Fund.

Mona Rubin (Petrusburg) ..	£0 10 0
Mervyn Rubinstein (Thaba 'Nchu (for orphans) ..	£ 12 6
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