

THE HOUSE OF ROTHSCHILD

FOLLOWING the precepts of their father, the House of Rothschild forges its way up from the ghetto until it is the supreme banking power of Europe. When Napoleon's army menaces the peace of Europe, it is the Rothschild money that enables the Allies,—England, Prussia, Austria and Italy—to thwart him and send the Little Corporal into exile.

Wellington comes back to England a conquering hero. A huge dinner is held in his honour. But when he finds that Nathan Rothschild is not at the festive board—was not invited because he was a Jew—he leaves. "If Rothschild cannot come here, I can go to him."

Meanwhile Wellington's aid, Captain Fitzroy, also beats a track to the Rothschilds. He is in love with Julie, who is inclined to let love have its way even though the Captain is a Gentile.

While visiting Rothschild, Wellington hints of a huge French loan that will make the firm that floats it the greatest financial power in Europe. Rothschild bids on it, his bid is the lowest but he gets no part of the loan. On asking why, Baron Ledrantz, the Prussian fiscal agent replies:

"A technicality."

"Am I to infer," asked Rothschild, "that the technicality is that I'm a Jew?"

"You may place whatever interpretation you may desire on my words, Mr. Rothschild. Your day is done."

THE knowledge that all the powers he had helped in the conquest of Napoleon had conspired against him with Ledrantz, convinces Nathan that the Jew has no chance for respect or dignity in the outside world. Therefore he forbids the marriage of Julie to Captain Fitzroy. To avenge himself for the insult from Ledrantz, Nathan breaks the bond market, forces down the bonds to a point where the conspirators charged with a fourth of the loan, are facing financial ruin. They send for Rothschild. He will rescue them only if they turn the entire loan over to him. He has already prepared the memorandum for such a step and he insists that Baron Ledrantz be the first to sign the paper.

Ledrantz retaliates on the unfortunate Jews of Germany, Frankfurt and the House of the Red Shield is stoned by a mob incited by the agents of Ledrantz. Nathan hurries to the aid of his family. Nathan is reproached by his brothers with having brought on the oppression. They ask him to buy the safety of the Jews from Ledrantz. He prepares to leave for the enemies' camp; Ledrantz has already ordered his arrest should he try to leave the country. But then word comes, by secret messenger, that Napoleon has escaped. Nathan turns back.

"Now they need us. I will not go to them. Ledrantz and company will come to the ghetto."

Nathan is a good prophet. Within a short time Ledrantz, Metternich and Talleyrand come to the House of the Red Shield. But before that the brothers confer on policy. James brings word from Paris that Napoleon will pay double the interest offered by the Allies, will give freedom to the Jews, and reminds Nathan:

"Napoleon seems headed for victory. What he doesn't get, he will steal."

All the brothers favour a change of alliance. Twenty years with the Allies, they point out, have still left the Jews where they were, in the ghetto. Nathan agrees. But he points out that Napoleon is a maker of wars. And the Jew is the apostle of peace.

"There can be no real peace in Europe," he points out, "until Napoleon is permanently exiled. To aid the Corsican is to make the Jew a pawnbroker in human lives, even though our every selfish instinct would lead us the other way."

HARDLY has the decision been made when the financial ministers arrive. Ledrantz is among them, proud, defiant, resentful. Nathan toys with the Allied emissaries. He tells them the family support has already been solicited by Napoleon, that he has promised them benefits double which any of them can offer. But on one condition the Rothschilds will come to the aid of the Allies. There must be written guarantees that the Jews in their countries will be granted liberty, freedom from oppression and citizenship. There must be no "Jew Streets," with their chains and discriminations. The powers agree and the Rothschilds' fortune is pledged to the Allies.

But danger still exists—if Napoleon wins, it will be the doom of the Rothschilds. Victory after victory is his, until at last the decisive battle is at hand. The Duke of Wellington alone stands between Napoleon and the absolute conquest of Europe. Panic-stricken the speculators on the Exchange begin selling. The market is on the verge of a panic. Only Nathan Rothschild is buying, supporting the market. His chief assistant implores him to stop, to continue, he says, is suicide. But Nathan will not hear of it.

"Buy! Buy! Buy!" he commands. "I made a deal with Ledrantz and the rest and I will not go back on my word. Buy! I don't care what all England will do tomorrow, but to-day I shall buy."

THE word from Nathan's brother on the battlefield at Waterloo is not encouraging. Nathan's resources are nearing an end. And then, with a panic broken out on the exchange, comes the news:

"Wellington victorious at Waterloo. Napoleon a prisoner."

Rothschild mounts a bench at the pillar at which he stands, the pillar from which he directed his buying operations. He screams:

"Napoleon is beaten; Napoleon is beaten. I have the news from Waterloo. Buy! Buy! Buy!"

But his fellow speculators will not believe him. They clamour about him but there is doubt in their eyes. Rothschild sees it.

"I have word from Waterloo. It has come by pigeon post. That is how I got the information. Now you know our secret."

Later, official confirmation comes through the War Office. Rothschild had saved the day. England honours him. The King holds a brilliant reception. Nathan Rothschild kneels before him, as slowly the King reads the citation of England's praise:

"England is deeply grateful to her adopted son who by his courage and his generosity did so much to bring peace to the world. His courage never faltered. He was loyal to his country at all times. For England, we thank you, Baron Nathan Rothschild."

With the doors of English society opened to the Jews, there is no longer any reason for opposing the marriage of Julie to Captain Fitzroy. She can now enter into a marriage with "dignity." A father's dying wish was once again respected.

Pretoria News

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Zionist Society: On Thursday, the 17th ult., a most interesting conversation was held at the Memorial Hall, the guests of the evening being Colonel Patterson, Mr. J. Landau and Mr. Haskel. Mr. and Mrs. J. Louis Saks were the hosts and there was a large attendance. Colonel Patterson gave an interesting address on the Jewish Battalion and Palestine as it is to-day, while Mr. Landau spoke on various aspects of world Jewry.

Prior to the addresses, the Mayor, Mr. Ivan Solomon, welcomed the guests. Mr. C. Podlashuc, seconded by Mr. Falkson, moved a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers. During the evening the Hanoar Choir under Mr. A. Abrahamson, delighted the audience with Hebrew songs, and Miss Fasser rendered a vocal solo.

National Fund Fete: On Wednesday, the 16th ult., at the City Hall a most successful concert was held under the auspices of the combined cigarette and grocery stalls. Mrs. Sugarman was the organiser, and Mrs. Schmulow was responsible for the sale of tickets. It is expected that the Fund will benefit to the extent of approximately £50 as a result of this effort. Among the artists were the Cameo Concert Party, Dolly de Villiers, Queenie How, Jean Prentice, Mary Poswolsky and pupils, Myra Prentice, Florence Taebach, Phyllis Katzenellenbogen, Doreen Prentice, Jack Hutchinson, John Ross, John Hazelhurst, Dick Kilkelly, John Plant, Holly White, Jack Stelling, Jack Kennedy; accompanists, Bella Shawsin and Goldie Rudolph.

A most successful fancy dress parade was organised by the toys and dips stall on Wednesday, 23rd May, at the Memorial Hall. The committee in charge of the function was comprised of Mesdames Kallmeyer, Hellman, Ossip, Behr, Hirshovitz and Saffer, assisted by Mesdames J. Leibman and Isaacson and Miss Esakov.

The prizes were distributed by the Mayoress, Mrs. Ivan Solomon, and the judges were Mrs. S. A. Klagsbrun, Mrs. Grant Smith (Daily Mail), Miss Plunkett (News), and Miss Robertson (Star).

The costumes were of a very high standard and fully 75 per cent. of Jewish interest. It is expected that the sum of £20 will accrue from this very successful function.

Hanoar.—A concert was held on Sunday, 27th, and Mr. A. Abrahamson is to be congratulated on the excellent fare provided for the huge crowd present. The outstanding item was the Chalutz camp fire scene, but the other items were very little inferior, and a very high standard was attained. Pretoria Hanoar could well organise another concert like this; the public to-day wants essentially Jewishness in the foreground.

Jewish Guild: On Sunday, the 20th ult., Rabbi M. C. Weiler delivered a lecture on "Message of Reform Judaism for the Modern Youth." Dr. J. S. Taback presided and there was a good attendance of members. Mr. C. Podlishuc moved a hearty vote of thanks after questions had been asked and satisfactorily answered.

Jewish Play: Members of the Jewish community are reminded that the play, "Israel in the Kitchen," is being produced on Thursday, June 7th. The proceeds are to be devoted to the Memorial Hall Fund and local charities.