

OUR CHILDREN'S CIRCLE

Conducted by **COUSIN HELEN.**

"A little child shall lead them."—Isaiah xi., 6.

Our Motto:

"Do not unto others, what you would not have others do unto you."

P.O. Box 2000, Cape Town.

My Dear Little Cousins,

Next Monday, as you all know will be Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It is the holiest day in the whole year for the Jews, a day of prayer and fasting. On that day Jews all over the world pray to God for forgiveness for their sins; they "atone" for their misdeeds and ask God for his love and mercy.

Kol Nidrei.

As with all other Jewish holidays, the service begins on the eve of the day (on Sunday night, this year) and is continued throughout the whole of the next day. The eve of Yom Kippur is sometimes called *Kol Nidrei* night. It is the name of a prayer with which the Yom Kippur eve service begins, a prayer in which the Jews pray to God to relieve them of all the vows (*Nidrei*) which they have made, so that they may begin the year anew, with better and holier thoughts and resolutions.

The music of *Kol Nidrei* is very beautiful, and is very often played on different musical instruments such as the violin and the 'cello. It is not known who composed the music of *Kol Nidrei* but it is believed that it was composed in Spain during the Inquisition when many of our people died the most terrible deaths rather than give up their religion. There were many who pretended to become Christians but in their hearts remained Jews, practising their religion secretly. It was on Yom Kippur that they expressed their feelings of regret for having taken false vows, and in the sad beauty of *Kol Nidrei* they expressed all their sorrow and suffering.

Although most of you are too young to fast the whole day, I am sure you will all go to Shul, and I hope you will sit there quietly and listen to the beautiful service. Try and remember that Yom Kippur is a very holy and serious day and that even children should behave in a seemly manner, especially in Shul.

Yom Kippur.

To Thee we give ourselves to-day
Forgetful of the world outside,
We tarry in Thy house, O Lord,
From eventide to eventide.

From Thy all-searching, righteous eye
Our deepest heart can nothing hide;
It crieth up to Thee for peace
From eventide to eventide

Who could endure, should'st Thou, O God,
As we deserve, forever chide?
We therefore seek Thy pardoning grace
From eventide to eventide.

O may we lay to heart how swift
The years of life do onward glide;
So learn to live that we may see
Thy light at our life's eventide.

—G. Gotthiel.

Correspondence.

Anita Broide.—Welcome to the Circle. Thank you for your letter. Please write again soon.

Joyce Volks.—Thank you very much for your interesting letter. Congratulations on doing so well at school and Cheder.

Your loving
COUSIN HELEN.

[To become a member of Our Circle write down your name, age, address and anything else you choose, and send it to Cousin Helen.]

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(sgd.) Mrs. L. D. Mitchell.

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