

Our Children's Circle

OUR MOTTO:

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

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

My Dear Little Cousins,

I hope you are all enjoying your holidays and making the most of your time. Now that you are free I hope some of you will make up your minds to write to me; it is a long time since I heard from many of you, and I do look forward to hearing how you are getting on.

I would also welcome new cousins. All you have to do is to write to me giving your name, age and anything else you like and you will get a beautiful certificate to show that you are a member of the Circle.

THE CLEVER SON.

A Jerusalemite once went on particular business to a certain place in the country, where he was suddenly taken ill. Seeing himself on the point of death, he called the master of the house, begged him to take care of his property till the arrival of his son, and, for fear of imposition, not to deliver it to him, unless he first performed three clever things as a proof of his wisdom.

After a lapse of considerable time the son arrived at the place. Knowing the name of the person with whom his father usually resided, but ignorant of the particular street in which he lived, he in vain endeavoured to find out. Whilst thus embarrassed and perplexed how to proceed, he espied a person with a heavy load of wood on his shoulders.

"How much for that wood?" he asked. The man mentioned a certain sum.

"Thou shalt have it," he said. "Go and carry it to S.-and-so's house" (mentioning the name of the person of whom he was in search) "I will follow thee."

The man did as he was desired. Arriving at the house, the carrier put down his load.

"What is all this?" said the master of the house. "I have not ordered any wood."

"True," said the carrier, "but the person behind me has."

In the meantime the stranger arrived, informed the master who he was, adding that, as no one would acquaint him with his abode, he contrived this stratagem in order to discover it.

"Thou are a clever fellow indeed," said the host, bade him enter, and insisted on his staying with him till the next day. The offer was thankfully accepted. Dinner was prepared; the cloth laid. The company consisted of the master, his wife, two daughters, two sons and the stranger, were seated, and the servant brought a dish containing five chickens, which was placed upon the table.

"Now," said the host to the visitor, "be so kind and carve." The latter at first begged to be excused, but at last complied, and executed his task in the following manner. One of the chickens he divided between the master of the house and his wife; another between the two daughters; the third between the two sons, and the remaining two he took for his own share. The master thought to himself, "A very strange way of carving—this! My visitor must be a great glutton," but he said nothing.

The afternoon and evening were passed in various amusements, and when supper time arrived, a very fine capon was placed upon the table.

"Thou hast performed the honours of the table so well this day," said the host to his visitor, "that I must request thee to carve again."

The visitor took the capon, cut off its head and placed it before the master; the inward part he gave to the mistress of the house; to the two daughters he gave a wing; to the two sons each a leg; and kept the whole remainder to himself.

"Upon my word," said the master, "this is too bad. I thought thy manner of carving at dinner very strange, but this is still more extraordinary, Pray, is this the way they carve at Jerusalem?"

"Have patience, until I explain myself, and my conduct may perhaps not appear quite so strange," replied the visitor. "At dinner five chickens were placed before me; these were to be divided among seven persons. As I could not perform the operation with mathematical exactness, I thought it best to do it arithmetically. Now thou, thy wife, and one chicken made up the number three; thy two daughters and another chicken made another three; thy two sons and a chicken made again three. To make up the last number, I was compelled to take the remaining chickens to myself; for two chickens and thy humble servant made again three. Thus have I solved this difficult problem."

"Thou are an excellent arithmetician, but a bad carver," said the master, "but proceed."

The stranger continued: "In my carving in the evening I proceeded according to the nature of things. The head being the principal part of the body, I therefore gave it to thee, since thou art the head of the family. To thy wife I gave the inward part as a sign of her fruitfulness. Thy two sons are the two pillars of thine house; the legs which are the supporters of the animal, were therefore their proper portion. Thy daughters are marriageable, and I know thou wishest to see them well settled; I therefore gave them wings that they may the sooner fly abroad. As for myself, I came in a boat; I therefore took the part that most resembles it."

"Very well done," said his host. "I am satisfied that thou art the true son of my departed friend. Here is thy property; now go and prosper."

Your loving,

COUSIN HELEN.

Y.I. Camp Success.

From Lakeside comes the news that the two hundred and twenty young people participating in the Sixteenth Annual Young Israel Camp continue to enjoy a delightful holiday and to avail themselves of the extensive arrangements drawn up for them by an enthusiastic and hard-working Camp Committee.

Since the last report was published there have been regular entertainments, gatherings and outings. There have been separate afternoon and evening outings for Seniors and Juniors and a special trip around the Peninsula was organised for the benefit of those from distant parts.

The most remarkable event was the performance given by the Cape Town Municipal Orchestra on Monday, 6th inst., under the conductorship of William J. Pickerill. The concert was given on the Camp site where special seating and lighting facilities had been provided. Some six hundred people listened with rapt attention to the programme of popular music which included the rendering of Kol Nidrei, and a Fantasia of Jewish Folk Songs and music by Jewish composers.

The unique setting and ideal surroundings succeeded in creating the atmosphere for a most memorable occasion. On the previous evening, Mr. S. N. Herman and Mr. D. Dunsky addressed a meeting of Campers and others at the Talmud Torah Hall, Muizenberg. Their addresses were followed by films showing scenes of the up-building work in Eretz Israel.

On Saturday, January 4th, the Senior Section had a most successful ball at the Hotel Rio Grande.

Each Friday night there has been an Oneg Shabbat. Sabbath Services have been held in Camp on Friday evenings and were conducted by the Head of the Camp and on Saturday mornings by Rev. Kassel and Cantor Friedman. Summer School lectures have taken place in the mornings and the lecturers for the past week were Dr. Birnbaum, Messrs. Natas, Avin and Kluk. On Tuesday morning, 7th inst., a meeting of students was held to discuss Zionist work at the University. Amongst those present were Dr. Birnbaum, Messrs. S. N. Herman and Z. Infeld.

The Camp is making a special contribution towards the inscription in the Golden Book of the name of Henrietta Szold. In addition all fines, sundry contributions, fees for extra meals, etc., which usually go to the Blue Box are being devoted to this worthy purpose. Campers also assisted at the Holiday Fete on Tuesday, 7th inst.

The Camp concludes on Wednesday, 15th inst., and the final affair will be the Grand Farewell Camp Fire on Tuesday evening, 14th inst. The public is cordially invited to attend.

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