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## EDITORIAL.

Here shall the Press the Jewish rights maintain  
Unaw'd by influence, and unbribed by gain.  
Here patriot Truth her glorious precepts draw,  
Pledged to Religion, Liberty, and Law.

### "SHEVVOTH."

Next Wednesday Jewry throughout the world celebrate the Feast of Weeks, which festival marks and commemorates a period which may be said to be the most momentous not only in the history of our own nation but in that of the human race in general—that of the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. Like our other Festivals, there is a national as well as a religious meaning attached to *Shevuoth*, the former emphasising the agricultural side of our ancestors' lives in Palestine. The offering of the first fruits that was enjoined on the people of Israel when the Law was given to them signalized the character of *Shevuoth* in the calendar of Jewish festivals. Coupled with the ordinance defining the observance of the festival is the injunction: "And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest; thou shalt leave them unto the poor and unto the stranger." Therefore this beautiful festival is not merely a recognition of the bounty of the Almighty. It is a reminder of the duty of all to share with the less fortunate in the products of that bounty. The reading of the Book of Ruth in the synagogue emphasises both aspects of this festival. The poetic idyll is a graceful and inspiring picture of faith and of a generous hospitality that is far in advance of the mere giving of the charity dole. The whole spirit of *Shevuoth* is typical of the teaching of Judaism on the bestowal of nature's gifts. The first fruits belong to the Lord as a testimony of gratitude. But the testimony is not complete without the fulfilment of the duty to the poor and the stranger. The offering in the Temple can no longer be made. There are, however, other fruits, which can be brought on this, the festival traditionally associated with the giving of the Law. The knowledge of that Law is obligatory on all the sons and daughters of Israel, and therefore the parents who would bring an acceptable offering cannot do otherwise than see to it that the precepts that were revealed at Sinai are taught to their children, and that these should bring the fruits of that teaching to the altar of religious devotion. In whatever form this instruction culminates the well-taught Jewish child should be prepared to celebrate the festival of *Shevuoth* in the spirit of Jewish fidelity, as a link in the chain of observance that constitutes the offering of Israel to the bountiful Giver of all good.

### JEPPESTOWN HEBREW CONGREGATION.

A comparatively satisfactory state of affairs is revealed in the annual report and balance sheet of this Congregation, which held its tenth general meeting on Sunday morning last in the vestry room of the synagogue. The bond on the Congregation's building which, at the date of the last annual meeting, stood at £1,038, now amounts to £670 odd, the revenue and expenditure account shows a surplus of £375, and this in spite of an additional outlay of £40 per annum being incurred by insuring the life of the Rev. Lipschitz and by other expenses. The Congregation numbers 110 subscribing members. In the minister's report, Rev. H. Lipschitz states that he is "pleased to report a steady progress all round." There are seventy children on the roll of the *Talmud Torah* classes held in conjunction with the synagogue. Mr. S. Hillman, the retiring president, presided over a good attendance, and owing to his excellent chairmanship the agenda was gone through in a very business-like and satisfactory manner.

### THE MINISTER AND A CHOIR.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the annual report, commenced by referring to ecclesiastical matters, and said it would be greatly advantageous if the incoming executive explicitly defined the duties of the minister, so as to prevent misunderstandings either on the part of the minister or on that of the hon. officers of the Congregation. He seriously recommended the incoming executive to take that matter in hand without loss of time. In the past that had not been done, and the omission had given rise to a great deal of trouble. With reference to the financial condition of the Congregation, the Chairman pointed out that when he had accepted office two years ago they were in debt to the extent of £1,700. Things did not look bright then, but by a great effort they managed to reduce the bond in the two years by considerably over £1,000. In addition they had erected a ladies' gallery, and that was so successful that he suggested an addition to the gallery. The expenditure had also been increased by the additional salary to the Rev. Lipschitz. Taken altogether, their position was a better one than was shown on the balance sheet. He asked the new executive to do their best either to reduce the expenditure or increase the income. They were unfortunately not in a position to give value for the money the members paid. They must make the services more attractive and do more to attract the ladies, as the latter could do good and useful work for the Congregation. He felt very strongly on the necessity of having a choir. The incoming executive should, he thought, do their best to have a choir. Nothing was being done to encourage people to come to the synagogue, but they were only asking members to pay up. Several members would leave the Congregation if nothing were done to make the services more attractive. In the past, however, they had been handicapped, but that day they were in a better position, and something should be done in this direction.

### "TALMUD TORAH" AND THE SYNAGOGUE.

The Chairman, continuing, said their arrangement with their *Talmud Torah* was a very unsatisfactory one. There was no mutual good understanding between the *Talmud Torah* committee and the synagogue management. It was a difficult task to keep the *Talmud Torah* going, and it fell on the shoulders of a few honorary collectors. The *Talmud Torah* paid £10 a month towards the Rev. Lipschitz's salary, but the time was coming when that institution would say they could not afford the £10, and the synagogue must pay the minister's whole salary itself. It was the duty of the incoming executive to place the relations between the *Talmud Torah* and the synagogue on a more satisfactory footing than hitherto. Thanks were due to the hon. secretary, Mr. Shepherd, for the valuable services rendered by him to the Congregation, for which he deserved all the more credit in that he was of a young age, and the speaker asked the younger members to follow his example and take a deeper interest in the Congregation. With regard to the unification of Johannesburg synagogues, the present unsatisfactory state of affairs could not go on for ever, said the speaker. The time must come when a strong personality will arise and unify the various Congregations so that they could show a united front when questions affecting the community arose. United