



By MAIMONIDES JUNIOR.

### The Dead Writer.

I have been looking through a number of the leading English papers in connection with the death and funeral of the late Mr. Israel Zangwill and I cannot help commenting upon the fact that in addition to the leading Jews there were present at the obsequies some of the most prominent writers of Gentile origin or faith. Here in this town the question of Mr. Zangwill's services to the community of which he was—to my idea—so bright an ornament has led to a controversy in consequence of the peculiar editorial article which appeared in the "Zionist Record" of August 6th last. For that reason—although not only for that reason—I am inclined to reprint the eloquent memorial prayer with which the Rev. M. L. Perlzweig concluded the service at the crematorium.

O God Who art the source of all power and all wisdom, and in Thy grace endowest Thy children with knowledge and understanding, we thank Thee for the life and work of Israel Zangwill. We thank Thee for the indomitable courage wherewith he confronted life and all its difficulties; for his glory of spirit; for the nobility of his inspiration and the splendour of his vision; for the high purposes to which he dedicated his life; for his steadfast loyalty to the House of Israel, and for the consecrated passion wherewith he laboured for the redemption of his people; for his iconoclasm, which was as a flaming sword to destroy evil; for his creative power, which revealed the beauty and the wonder of life to the children of men; for the catholicity of his spirit, and for his faith in humanity; for his dedicated service to the cause of social justice and the brotherhood of man; and for the love wherewith he loved and served those near unto him. For these and all Thy gifts, yea, for all the varied richness of his prophetic spirit, O God, we render unto Thee the offering of our gratitude. And now in the hour of his passing we accept in humility and in faith the decree of Thy justice. Thy servant hath awakened from the dream of life; the seeker after truth hath passed to the academy on high; the wandering spirit is at rest. But as for us, we acknowledge before Thee our frailty and our weakness, O Lord. We wander in darkness, and the burden of great sorrow lies heavily upon us. O Thou who art afflicted in all our affliction, be Thou very near unto us in the hour of our grief. Comfort us even as Zion shall be comforted. Grant that the memory of him whom we mourn shall be for a blessing which shall abide as a memorial of love in our hearts for ever. Endue us with fortitude and the courage of faith, that in the spirit of our ancestral faith we may praise Thy name in sorrow even as in joy.

### Matri—"Money."

I have not infrequently commented upon the tendency in this country to unnecessary ostentation in local Jewish weddings and in support of my contentions I am reproducing the newspaper account given of a New York matrimonial function which

will make the mouths water of some of the vulgarly extravagant Jews in this country, who, out of sheer ostentation think that they have done a clever thing by spending inordinate sums on such functions.

At a Jewish wedding in New York recently a banquet for forty guests cost over £4,000, including a jazz band, champagne and souvenirs.

The whole party drove at midnight to the pier to see the newly-married couple sail for Europe, servants carrying the wine left at the banquet for a farewell drink on board the liner.

The forty guests, the men in top-hats and the women hatless, came at the double down the long pier, singing pastoral lays.

If we alter the word "pier" to Park Station we might also apply the description to certain recent Johannesburg weddings and when we realise how short many of the leading communal institutions in this city are we begin to understand how it is that Jews are not so beloved as they might be in South Africa by those who frequent the Muizenberg and Durban beaches.

### The Palestine Loan.

The question of Palestine I notice has been occupying the attention of the British House of Commons quite a lot lately and I note that in the House of Commons last week, Sir Frank Sanderson asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether in deciding to allow a loan of 4½ million pounds to be raised for Palestine, His Majesty's Government had acted in consultation with any representative body of the inhabitants of the country; whether they had taken any measures to ascertain the opinion of the Arabs—about 90 per cent. of the population—on whom the chief burden of meeting the charges of the debt will fall, and whether they would inform the House as to how they intend to raise the annual charge required for interest and sinking fund.

Mr. Ormsby Gore: The reply to the second part of the question is in the negative. The House is aware of the circumstances in which the proposal of His Majesty's Government Legislative Council in Palestine led to no result. In the absence of such a Council there is no body representative of the different section of Palestinians as a whole to be consulted. With reference to the third part of the question it is anticipated that the annual charges will be made from the ordinary revenue of the country.

Lt.-Commander Kenworthy: Will there be another opportunity of continuing the debate on this loan, which was cut short the other night?

Mr. Ormsby Gore: I do not think that arises out of the question.

### The Railway Question.

The railway too came in for some discussion because in the same legislative house, although on a different day, Mr. J. Bromley, General Secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, asked the Colonial Secretary whether the recent action of the management of the Government Railways in Palestine in discontinuing the grant of annual holidays with pay and refusing to pay for statutory holidays to the staff is with his knowledge and approval. If so, why had this step been taken, and what were the net profits of these railways during the last period estimated?

Mr. Ormsby Gore said that he had no information regarding the first two parts of the question. During the financial year 1925 and 1926 the difference between revenue and the actual working expenditure was about £104,000. This represented less than 5 per cent. of the estimated capital value of the railway.