

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,

*Pesach* is nearly over, and I know that we are all a little sorry. We had such jolly fun, and the excitement of asking the *Mah Nishtenah* was great. Then there was the fun of playing "nuts" and other games.

Do you know the game of the *Red Sea*? I found a few boys and girls playing it the other day, and I joined in the game.

You need eight for this game, but as many as forty can join in. The more the merrier!

One half of the players are Israelites, and the other half Egyptians. If there is one left over, let him or her give the signal and be the leader.

Draw two chalk lines on the ground, about four feet apart. The space between them is the *Red Sea*. The Egyptians line up on one bank, and the Israelites on the other.

At the signal from the leader, each Egyptian will try to pull an Israelite back across the *Red Sea*. The Israelites, of course, will put up a fight and try to get the Egyptians across to their side. Each one who is dragged across the *Red Sea* by the time the whistle blows again is counted "drowned" and has to drop out of the game. The signal is given, and you start on the next bout.

Whichever side first gets all the "men" is the winner, and the other, of course, loses.

I suppose everybody will want to be an "Israelite" so you'd better toss up to decide that!

In the *Jewish Tribune*, a lovely American paper, I read this article the other day, and while I read it I thought of you all. So here it is for you to enjoy. It is written by Rabbi Sol Segal:—

"Passover, the Festival of Spring and Freedom, might also be styled the Festival of the Jewish Song, for is not this great historic event, marking the birth of the Jewish nation, also reminiscent of the first Jewish national hymn—that beautiful song of godly thanksgiving and national exultation?

On Passover we also chant the inspiring song of the heroic David, as well as the thrilling *Song of Songs*. Indeed, the Jewish soul sings when it is free.

The introductory words of the first song of the Jew are significant and characteristic of Jewish song. Then sang Moses and the Children of Israel: "I will sing unto the Lord." The Jew does not sing of "Arms and the Man." His song is an expression of his soul's yearning and life's purpose, an aspiration for an ideal and for godliness.

And ever since the Jew became free and received the Law of Life, he has been singing *Shirah*, this song of godliness. He even

pictured the angels and all things of nature joining him in this immortal song. Thus, the whole life of the Jew became a song, a godly refrain.

He might be oppressed physically, and persecuted; he sang nevertheless. His musical instruments, as well as his Temple, might have been shattered by the relentless enemy, but his heart strings and soul flute poured forth even more touching notes.

He might be suffering, but a tear and a sigh had become the "measure" and the "beat" of Jewish song. In his house of God, he sang of his God through his tears and through his sighs, and though human happiness and fraternal peace were denied him, he yet sang of his psalmist, "Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad."

And if all gates were closed to him, yet the gate of heaven was open, and he sang. If the sea of commerce was barred to him, yet the sea of the Talmud was his, and again he sang, endeavouring to fathom the genius of ancestors. If the Gentile was so cruel as to shackle his very soul, yet he had his Sabbath and *zemiris* were his.

If he could not sing of his present, at least he could sing of his past and of his future. In fact, this was the outstanding quality of the Jewish song. Thus the song in exile was but visionary and imaginary, beautiful though it was.

To-day, in the land of the fathers, the Jew is singing a new song. It is a real Song of the Present. The *Chaluzim* are composing Israel's new national hymn. It is a song of love and of labour, of dignity and of life. Let us all join in the refrain:—

*Sing ye a new song, those that are redeemed."*

THE SEDER DISH.

Bring us in the *Seder* dish,  
Long before the meat and fish!  
Come *charoses*, *moror*, too,  
We shall taste of both of you!

Little bone, that means a lamb,  
Egg, that just like Isaac's ram,  
Takes the place of sacrifice,  
Come and make our *Seder* nice!

Isn't *Pesach* simply fine,  
With the *Matzoth* and the wine?  
Here's a seat for you and me,  
All sit down in company!  
(Shulamith Ish-Kishor.)

I am longing to hear how you all spent *Pesach*. Please write and tell me.

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.]

MAKE THE  
CENTRAL HOTEL  
YOUR MEETING PLACE.  
Cape Town's Commercial Rendezvous.  
18, SHORTMARKET STREET,  
CAPE TOWN.

Morris Samuel on South Africa.

One of the few happy corners of the far-flung Jewish world was South Africa. About sixty thousand Jews—mostly Litvaks—had settled in that remote and wondrous country; and travellers who visited them brought back to this side of the equator the most charming and moving stories of the warmth and comfort and happiness of that settlement. The most gracious relations existed between Jews and non-Jews. It was a land of plenty and of freedom.

Sundered as they were from the rest of the Jewish world, lulled by the ease and security of their surroundings, the Jews of South Africa might almost have been forgiven if they had forgotten the tormented millions of Jews in other parts of the world and the dreams which they cherish of better days. Such was not the case. The Jews of South Africa led world Jewry in their proportionate contribution to all Jewish causes; and for the reconstruction of Palestine they created a model both in the monies they contributed and the active, intelligent, personal co-operation which they gave.

And suddenly, without warning apparently, came the alien immigration bill: South Africa wants no more Jews! Why? What has the Jew brought South Africa but his initiative and his gratitude? What better element of citizenship is there? What specific accusations are there? There is no answer, except the obstinate repetition of the phrase: We have enough Jews. And not even the generous protests of a world statesman like General Smuts (he is the greatest man South Africa has produced) have been of any avail. . . . And so the despairing question rises in our minds: Is there any corner of this civilized world where the Jew can say, without hesitation, without reservation, "Here I am safe forever, and here I will be as welcome as every other decent element in the population"?

ARDERNE

& CO., LTD.,

Timber and  
Ironmongers

at the Lowest Market Prices

Doors	Paints	Flooring
Windows	Baths	Ceiling
Mouldings	Stoves	Deals

CALEDON SQUARE,  
CAPE TOWN.

Telephones: 1953, 1984, 23, 4023. P.O. Box 48.

Evans & Plows Ltd.

Plumbers and Drainage Contractors  
Hot Water and Sanitary Engineers

Should you require our service day or night phone 920  
73, BUITENGRACHT ST., CAPE TOWN.