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"Zionism aims to establish a publicly-assured, legally-secured Home for the Jewish people in Palestine."—

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BARUCH HABA!

Speaking to a Jewish Club in America a few years ago, Col. Josiah Wedgwood, referring to a remark that he must be acquiring the Hebrew language, replied, in his usual vigorous style, "Sir, I have use for but two words in the Hebrew language: those words are Erez Israel." We cannot but think that, after all his years of association with and championship of Jews and Zionism, Col. Wedgwood's Hebrew knowledge is a little more extensive than that; but of one thing we are sure, that, if he does not understand the literal meaning, he will assuredly catch the spirit, of the two other Hebrew words which head this column. For he is indeed welcome—doubly and trebly welcome—amongst us. When Table Mountain looms up before him next Monday morning, it will not be his first sight of South Africa; and, although nearly a quarter of a century has elapsed since his previous stay, he has by no means forgotten his old associations. Only two or three years ago he drew on his recollections of the veld in illustrating the fine: "the contrast," he said, comparing the green Jewish colonies with the desert in which they are planted, "reminds me of the step you take from the treeless, arid, dusty veld of South Africa into the blossoming, watered erven of those old Dutch townships."

But we shall welcome him not so much as an old acquaintance revisiting old haunts and renewing old associations as in the capacity of doughty champion of the Jewish nation. We Jews have been fortunate, especially in the present generation, in being able to count among our friends most of the better minds amongst the men and women of all countries: it would take a volume even to enumerate the more outstanding of them. And we venture to say that none of them has a greater claim upon our gratitude than Josiah Wedgwood. In the midst of a distinguished and not un-exacting career,—soldier, leading Parliamentarian, and ex-Cabinet Minister,—he has never failed, year in, year out, to strike valiantly for Zion whenever her warfare called her champions to the lists. He has not been satisfied to give here a passing thought, there a moment snatched from a busy day: he has put his heart and soul into Zionism: he has been ready for any service of tongue or pen, of deliberation or of action; he has incessantly pressed his views upon the members of Parliament, collectively as well as individually: he has journeyed far and near to further the Jewish national ideal. Nor has his work been confined to non-Jews: he is one of that select band of Gentiles who has established a claim to urge Jews to Jewish duty. And it is in this last capacity that he comes to us now.

All his utterances on Zionism are marked by a virility, an earnestness, a burning conviction, found all

too rarely in most Jewish addresses on Palestine. Indeed, among all Zionist "propagandists" he ranks as one of the most vigorous and forthright in his presentation of the case for Jewish nationhood. We will not have the temerity to venture to anticipate the lines of his forthcoming exhortations to South African Jewry. But two things we can safely say. First, Col. Wedgwood conceives of the relation of Britain to Jewry in regard to Palestine as purely and simply a partnership,—of interest as well as of heart. Secondly, to him Zionism appeals as a great adventure, a holy quest for justice and a place in the sun for the Jew. In a word, the dominant idea in his Zionist philosophy is that the Jewish National Home is a joint venture by Great Britain and the Jewish people. Hence it is that he advocates the erection of Palestine into an eventual Dominion of the British Commonwealth of Nations: hence it is that, speaking to a Jewish gathering, he described Zionism as "this joint enterprise in historic justice, inspired by that undying love of freedom so characteristic of those two great wandering races to which you and I have the honour to belong": hence it is that we feel it to be in accordance with the essential fitness of things that Colonel Wedgwood, an English Christian, stands shoulder to shoulder with us in our onward march to freedom and to Zion.

And so we greet him once again—*Baruch Haba!*

We Must Follow Our Own Example!

South African Jewry is about to undergo an acid test. The announcement in this and previous issues of the "Zionist Record" that there will be launched almost immediately a campaign for the Keren Hayesod is a challenge to the consciousness and sentiment of every Jew and Jewess in this sub-Continent. By their reaction to that test they will show whether their Jewish nationalism is dross, alloy, or pure gold.

But it will be by no means their first testing-time. For the past decade they have been summoned to the trial every second year: and each time they have emerged stainless, each time finer than the last. With this record behind them, they are fortified for the coming campaign. Though taken somewhat unawares they have long known that such a campaign was due early this year; that, every second year, they are called upon to provide their quota of the funds needed to carry on the herculean task of the upbuilding of the Jewish National Home.

On every previous occasion, South African Jewry gave abundant evidence of the high spirit animating every section, and of the noble emulation which made each centre vie with every other in the spontaneity and generosity of its response. In love for Zion, in practical idealism, in determination to win through, they stand pre-eminent among the Jewries of the world: these qualities resulted in the great triumphs of previous campaigns, and will result in no less a triumph in the coming test.

Many distinguished men have come to us to initiate previous campaigns: none of them, however, more distinguished than the brilliant triumvirate,—Lord Melchett, Colonel Wedgwood, Dr. Mossinsohn—who will shortly be with us. But whilst the effect produced by their presence and inspiration must not be for a moment underrated, we must concede pride of place, amongst the factors which will make for the success of this as of previous campaigns, to the essential soundness and warmth of Zionist sentiment amongst our community: for the greatest and most inspiring personalities we have cannot reap an adequate harvest from unfavourable soil, as witness the unsatisfactory *pro rata* contributions by Jews in so many other countries, in spite of repeated visits from our greatest and most eloquent leaders and orators.