



The Mayor of Cape Town
(Mr. Louis Gradner).

Corporation Sunday.

Impressive Service at Great Synagogue.

MR. BENDER'S ADDRESS.

complete success in any sphere of public activity that we should occasionally receive new and impartial acknowledgement and even grateful recognition of our consistent discharge of duties when fulfilled with conscientious and single-minded intention and effort.

The Gate of the Peoples.

There was certainly one satisfaction that we might all derive from working for the progress of Cape Town, and that was, that she was not self-limited but was, to use a happy phrase of the psalmist, "The Gate of the Peoples." For however lacking Cape Town might be in respect of some of the vital adjuncts of a fully equipped Metropolis, we might fittingly declare of her: "All my fountains are in Thee." Through her ever-open door had passed men and women to render the invaluable and indispensable offices of an enlightened and progressive civilisation.

Nowhere was there a truer spirit of charity in its most unselfish and most self-sacrificing form, more consistently and eloquently manifested all the year round, than it was by the countless voluntary workers in Cape Town, who, with entire self-denial and self-effacement, devoted themselves untiringly to the difficult task of alleviating the suffering around them. The women, particularly, devoted themselves assiduously to the promotion of the health, education, comfort and elevation of the people.

"As one who," said Mr. Bender, "for nearly forty years has been privileged to witness an ever-growing number of the most wonderful and inspiring of such examples of voluntary self-denial and self-effacement, it is a welcome opportunity to-day to express how deeply Ministers of Religion in general are indebted to such men and women of all denominations for exemplars of the truest, noblest, and widest social idealism. The longer I experience it, the more convinced do I feel how impossible it is to express in adequate language what all of us feel in regard to the inestimable work of this incomparably beautiful and invaluable service to humanity in South Africa."

True, much yet remained to be done in the sphere of philanthropic activity. It was, at any rate, gratifying to know that through the promised financial support of the Government, there was every prospect of the slums ceasing to exist. But we were all aware that there was still considerable scope for those who longed to see a substantial decrease in the death-rate from the various forms of tubercular disease, especially among the coloured section of the community. We confidently looked to our most efficient Municipal health service to relieve us gradually and surely of this threatening danger to the safety of the great masses of the people. "Then shall it be said of the Mother City: 'Her borders are in the heart of the seas, whilst her builders have perfected her beauty.'"

The First and Second Jewish Mayors.

"The retiring Mayor and Mayoress," said Mr. Bender, "have shown us during a period of exceptional and prolonged commercial and financial depression, when unemployment was everywhere pathetically rife, how by organised effort such abnormal suffering may be at least partially alleviated. And I feel assured that their successors, the Mayor and Mayoress whom we have welcomed to-day—judging them by their past record of unselfish work for humanity—will worthily maintain those high traditions of personal service which, they may gratefully recall on this occasion, were enriched in his time by the first Jewish Mayor of the Mother City, Hyman Liberman. Already in the days of Alexandrian philosophy Philo wrote a treatise on Humanity, pointing out that kindness is the leading principle of Jewish Law, demanding regard for the slave as well as for the animal. And nowhere can that characteristic loving kindness be more appropriately and more effectively manifested by ourselves than in the considerate support of our Hospitals and Homes in the Cape Peninsula which minister with unflinching zeal and devotion to the alleviation of human suffering in every form, and help men and women and children indiscriminately to face the problems, the experiences and the trials of life with effective and unflinching resources. There is certainly one salutary, all essential and indispensable lesson that we all learn in the process of ministering to suffering humanity, and that is the one touch of nature that makes us all kin. While we are present in this Sanctuary of Love and Peace on this memorable day, from the sun-lighted slopes of Table Mountain the spirit of the venerable Mother City looks down with affectionate gaze upon her children—white and coloured—European and Native—nestling at her base in the gathering sunshine, and with loving gesture she wafts to the responsive hearts of the multi-varied citizens of Cape Town a message of unity and harmony, goodwill and co-operation, which cannot fail to draw them altogether in ever deepening affection and ever-widening activity in their respective sphere of national service in the future, until from their midst there shall at last burst forth in unbroken and intensive cadence the irresistible response of a spontaneously federated people: 'Let us be one—one nation for ever more.'"

Mr. Boris Rome very beautifully sang a solo "Blessed be this Hour," and with the singing of Hallelujah by the choir the Service was brought to a close.

Jewish education is the basis of the future of Jewry in this country. You dare not, therefore, refuse to support the S.A. Board of Jewish Education during "Education Week.

Corporation Sunday was celebrated in Cape Town last Sunday with the traditional pomp and ceremony. It was of special interest to the Jewish community because, with the appointment of a Jew—Mr. Louis Gradner—as Mayor, the ceremony took place in the Great Synagogue, Gardens. The Synagogue was crowded with men and women, and by 10.45 a.m., when the ceremony began, there was scarcely standing room left.

Mr. Gradner wore his scarlet robe and gold chain of office, and he was escorted by a liveried official bearing the gold mace. Councillors in purple robes and wearing cocked hats followed him and took reserved seats immediately in front of the Ark. Traffic Police and members of the Fire Brigade occupied seats at the back of the Synagogue. Upstairs, in the front row facing the Ark, were Mrs. Louis Gradner, the Mayoress, wearing her chain of office, Miss Vera Gradner, and wives of the Councillors.

The Service was conducted by Cantor L. Kirschner, assisted by the choir and Rev. S. Kibel, and was extremely impressive. The singing was rendered to the accompaniment of the organ.

An inspiring address was delivered during the morning by Rev. A. P. Bender.

"The fact," said Mr. Bender, "that this is the second occasion in our Municipal history when a Jewish member of the City Council has been unanimously chosen for this honour, is only another eloquent proof—if any were needed—of the broad and enlightened spirit of the Municipality of Cape Town, which gives due recognition to the citizen who has merited it without reference to his nationality or his religion."

The Ideal City.

From time immemorial, said Mr. Bender, the Jewish people had loved to depicture an ideal city in which everything that could ennoble and exalt humanity should claim kindred and have its claims readily allowed. That idea city was represented by Jerusalem of old, apostrophized in the Jewish Scriptures as the perfection of beauty, the joy of the whole earth. In the present critical age, however, we, citizens of no Mean City, were not as a rule quite so confident about the perfection of our city. Indeed, sometimes we were prone to go to the other extreme and so far from bestowing a eulogy on the devotion of our Mayor and Councillors to their absorbing and difficult task, we were prone to indulge in measured or unmeasured criticism of their achievements or efficiency. Criticism by those competent to give it should always be welcomed, but it was also essential to our ultimate and