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A Few Minutes With Edgar Allen Poe
Continued from Page Four

the object to be attained in every poem. As truth appeals to reason, so poetry appeals to the human aspiration for supernatural beauty. Poetry is not designed to teach a lesson, but to raise a pleasureable emotion. And as such an emotion can only be short lived, no poem can be long. Hence Poe has not given to the world any long work.

I shall now try to read Poe's "Raven," the greatest, most effective piece of American poetry ever written. Before doing so you might be interested in learning of the method Poe used in the composition of that great work, so distinctly original. The first thing Poe did was to select the tone for his poem, and we cannot be surprised to see that he chose melancholy. To strengthen this idea he thought of the repetition as a means to his end. Then he selected one word to accomplish his purposes, and Nevermore could not be overlooked. Finding that a human being would not be likely to repeat one word all the time he looked for a non-reasoning creature, and naturally selected an owl or a raven. Then comes the choosing of a subject, and surely Poe could not have done better than to choose Death, as the most melancholy, and in order to bring about a climax he takes for the height of beauty, the lover mourning the death of his beloved. After this much was worked out Poe puts his pen to paper, the results of which I will now offer you.

We are as ships that go down to the sea. Some are destined for calm waters and smooth sailing, others for rocks and storms. To that unhappy master, to quote the Raven, who fought so bravely, is cruel odds, who faced the storm and thunder, scarcely knew the sun, there can only be poetry in our hearts. He suffered much, and without compensation. He forever questioned out there was no answer save that which comes back to us through the years like a solemn knell. Suddenly changing to mocking laughter.

This poem is intended to represent a very painful condition of mind, as of an imagination that was liable to topple over into some delirium, or an abyss of melancholy, from the continuity of one unvaried emotion. It shows how the writer was easily

accessible to few, and dedicated to some memory of a controlling sorrow. In fine, it might be taken as the echo of Poe's own history.

It is exquisite, subtle, simple, and sombre, at times gruesome, but never without a hypnotic influence over the reader.

Fine gifts of temperament and imagination, which are essential to the production of true poetry are often accompanied by a morbid sensibility. That soul capable of ecstasy must pay its price in suffering. He who walks upon the heights must sometimes grovel in the dust.

MR. AND MRS. LEVIN ENTERTAIN.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Levin of 1510 Rosalie street entertained Sunday, December 13, the occasion being the Brith Milah of their son, Mohel M. Isaac officiating. After a splendid repast a discussion arose between H. Moskowitz and M. Schiff of Richmond, Texas. It took the part of a debate, the loser to donate \$5 to the Bikar Cholim. Mr. Schiff was the loser. An additional \$15 was raised for the same society. During the repast several speeches were made by Mr. B. Schiff of New York, Rev. H. B. Lieberman and Dr. H. Isaacs. Through the efforts of Rev. Lieberman and Dr. Isaacs the sum of \$30 was raised for the National Jewish fund by selling the privilege of saying "Grace" after the meal. Mr. B. Schiff was accorded this honor. Mr. B. Juran aided very much for the cause. The Bickor Cholim and Zionists extend thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Levin and all those present.

Our genial friend, Mr. I. B. Jacob, left Wednesday on a hunting trip. What he expects to do to the "ducks" is a plenty. What he will do remains to be seen.

There is in circulation a subscription list for the establishment of a fund to be loaned to our worthy co-religionists. When it is presented to you don't fall down or be near sighted. The men behind it are the best in town and it is a worthy proposition.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cohen have purchased a home on Bell avenue and will go to housekeeping after January first. Mr. and Mrs. North of Broadway will be located with them in their new home.

Miss Johanna Dorothea Burgheim left for St. Louis and Eastern cities to visit relatives. She will stop a week at Alexandria, La., where her sister, Mrs. Ben Weil, formerly Miss Estelle Burgheim, resides.

SECOND LITERARY MEETING.

On Sunday night at Temple Beth Israel was held the second meeting of the Beth Israel Literary Society. The attendance and interest manifested were good and a compliment to the society. During the evening the "Poets of America" held the attention of the assemblage. The programme follows:

Poets of America, Mrs. H. J. Dannenbaum.

Edgar Allen Poe, Mr. Saul S. Gordon.

Bret Hart, Miss Adele Levy. William Cullen Bryant, Mr. Meyer C. Wagner.

Whitcomb Riley, Miss Gertrude Levy.

Eugene Field, Miss Mabel David.

Walt Whitman, Dr. Henry Barnstein.

The papers and readings were without exception well rendered and the evening was well spent.

ADATH YESHURUN.

This Sabbath is the first day of Hanukkah. Services as usual Friday evening, early service at 5:45, late service at 8 o'clock. Rabbi Willner will preach on: "Our Temple's Dedication." Sabbath morning services at 8 o'clock, German sermon; children's services at 10; Minchah at 4.

Sunday school on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock; the usual collection for the New Orleans Orphans' Home will be taken. In the afternoon at 3:30 there will be a Hanukkah entertainment by the Sunday and Hebrew school, given to the parents and friends.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the President and Members of The Herzl Zion Society, Houston, Texas.

Fellow Zionists:

I hereby submit my report to your honorable body.

In April, 1908, the Herzl Zion Society was struggling along for existence, and after an election was called and new officers elected, and then the efforts of our present president, Mr. Max Flaxman, and the hearty co-operation of our officers, our society has increased from 42 to 100 good standing members.

Through the efforts of the Propaganda Committee the Sons and Daughters of Zion was organized, and through the untiring efforts of Mr. Abe Gordon, chairman of the Propaganda Committee, the B'nai Zion of Galveston was organized, after many attempts.