

The Jewish South.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF JUDAISM.

VOL. I.

RICHMOND, VA., FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 1893.

No. 1.

BEN-BEOR.

A STORY OF THE ANTI-MESSIAH
IN TWO DIVISIONS.

PART I.—Lunar Intaglios, *The Man in the Moon*, a counterpart of Wallace's "Ben Hur." PART II.—Historical Phantasmagoria, *The Wandering Gentile*, a companion romance to Sue's "Wandering Jew."

Here's a book for every Jew to read; to be passed from sire to son and from mother to daughter. The critic had this book for more than a year before reading it; he did indeed, soon after obtaining it make an attempt, but after going over a chapter or two concluded that the hallucinations of the author were hardly worthy of a further perusal. His attention having been recently called to the book by a lady of literary taste he returned to it with a suspicion of disappointment which, however, has not been confirmed. The work speaks for itself in such tones of strength that the Jewish reader may, with confidence, request any of his christian brethren to examine its contents without fear of the results.

By the over-zealous Jewish student it might be objected that too much has been conceded to the founder of Christianity, to whom, as well as to such followers as Luther and Calvin, he has been extremely liberal in his praise; but writing from so broad a platform as that occupied by the author it is probably best that he should make as many concessions as possible without injury to the cause he advocates. The Jew is at times handled with suspicious severity, but this treatment is generally based upon such occasional acts as merit reproof; in the end he receives ample justice at the hands of the author.

Balaam, the hero of the book, is represented as the carnal personification of hatred to the Jews, against whom he swears, in early life, undying hatred because the ideal woman whom he loves is friendly to the race and rejects his suit. After allowing his animosity full sway

and inventing many schemes that shall bring misery and unhappiness to this gifted people, he at length gives up life on this sphere and is transferred to the moon; there he follows the same tactics, but being expelled from lunar regions by Elijah, he is sent back to mundane scenes where he again takes up his career of undying hatred to the chosen people and is present at the destruction of the temple, the methods for which are arranged by him. Disappointed in his attempt to annihilate the followers of Judaism, he follows the scattered remnants from place to place, with bitterest malice inciting persecution and employing the most hideous methods of torture to gratify his unnatural antipathy.

The story of the middle ages, including the inquisition and the crusades, is told in terse and instructive style. The reader is by this time fully prepared to find that Balaam under an assumed name is the instigator of the inquisition as well as one of the main inquisitors; he is also the author of the blood-accusation for the Passover sacrifice, and the accuser who first charges the Jews with having poisoned the wells when the black-death pestilence raged with such fierceness throughout southern Europe. While it would otherwise never appear reasonable to the calm thinker that such monstrous charges should find credence, the author constructs his story with such logical cleverness that it seems quite consistent for such a character to be able to dominate during a period of superstition and bigotry.

The author further shows how the rise of civilization and the freedom of the Jews, go hand in hand on their destination and with a pen that rivals the genius of a Raphael, pictures to the mind scenes of bloodshed and brutality that accompany every false accusation.

Throughout the work there are presented leading characters of Jewish, Christian, Moslem and pro-

fane history, and by frequently quoting from their writings and forcibly introducing the best thoughts of the greatest writers, the interest of the reader is readily retained.

The book has many faults, some of them quite serious, but they may be readily forgiven by the Jewish reader in consideration of the eminently worthy object the author had in view and for the masterly way in which he has portrayed the injustice of potentates, creeds and reformers to a people who through suffering and persecution have borne the banner of morality and truth out of the darkness of barbarism into the light of civilization.



Foster

ARTIST AND PHOTOGRAPHER,

112 N. Ninth St., Richmond, Va.

ROSES AND OTHER CUT FLOWERS,

FLORAL DESIGNS FOR ALL

USES, FROM 50 CTS. TO \$50.00.

Decorative Plants, &c.

Order by Mail, Wire or 'Phone.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

M. R. CATLIN & CO.,

901 E. Main Street.

Fourquean, Price & Co.,

319 & 321 E. BROAD ST.,

RICHMOND, VA.

Headquarters for the Freshest, Best
and Cheapest of Every Thing
in Fancy and Staple Dry
Goods.