

THE JEWISH SOUTH.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF JUDAISM.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

HERBERT T. EZEKIEL, Editor and Prop.,
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NO JEWISH VOTE.

Seven prominent rabbis of New York City signed their names, in their official capacities, to a paper, endorsing a candidate for a petty office during the recent election. This paper was used as a campaign document.

The event has aroused a great deal of indignation, and justly so. It was a most direct and pointed appeal in behalf of the candidate on the grounds of his religious persuasion. It was an attempt to manufacture and catch a "Jewish vote."

In palliation of the act of the rabbis, it seems that the candidate in question was the son of a rabbi and the brother of another, and that the reverend gentlemen signed the paper out of courtesy to the family, and that it was used as a campaign document without their knowledge, or their expectation that it would be so used.

Let the incident point its morals:

1. That no man can be too careful with his name, nor hold it too dear, would he have it

tainable, and who signs without thought each petition or appeal, simply out of courtesy or to get rid of the petitioner or appellant, that name will be held cheaply in the community.

2. There can be no greater mistake than to attempt to bring religious prejudices to the polls. On the mere basis of self-protection, not to speak of the higher ground of earnest patriotism, it is flying in the face of danger. No one, of even the meanest intelligence, need be told where the onus of it will fall. It is true it does now exist, to a greater extent than it should, but we are trying to combat it and break it down, and it were folly indeed to invite it by our own act.

We are told that there is a movement on foot in this city to organize an association of Germans and Jews, in order to present a united and determined stand, and to secure "recognition" of foreign-born citizens.

This is heaping Ossa upon Pelion.

The bane of our American politics is the fact that many a man is given office, not because of his fitness or ability, but as a sop thrown to

this, that or another element; to catch the German or the Irish or the Swedish or the Italian vote by giving them "recognition." The American seems to have no part. It is the degradation of our suffrage.

Let the Jews be the last ones to countenance or abet it. We have always and on every occasion asserted our pride in our American citizenship. We resent the imputation that we are not Americans. Act then as Americans, and denounce every attempt to use any other influence in behalf of a man, than his probity and his ability to fill the office which he seeks. There is no room in the ballot-box for any other than an American vote, cast independently of religious or extraneous prejudices. Least of all should Jews encourage separatism or affiliate with any organization that encourages it. It is our pride to say that every Jewish citizen votes as his party principles or his estimate of the candidates before him may direct him. The synagogue has no place in politics except to teach that the highest patriotism is found not alone on the battle-field, but as well in the conservation of the best and noblest ideals of government, to be realized by the election to office of the best and truest men, utterly regardless of social, religious or former-national affiliation.

C.

Nothing New.

We feel highly honored that so distinguished a journal as the *American Hebrew* should on three separate occasions feel called upon to criticize us in a most caustic manner. Our gratification, however, arises in part from the

nishes proof positive that our paper is read in its sanctum, a compliment we are unable to return, for although THE JEWISH SOUTH is mailed invariably each week to the *Hebrew*, that paper has never done us the courtesy to reciprocate.

The same is also true of several other of our fraters, who, while they receive (and make use of the contents of) our paper, fail to send their own in return.

As to the special article to which the *Hebrew* refers in its last issue, we would say that we did not wish to hoodwink it or any other intelligent reader into the belief that "Polano's" was a new publication. We did not for a moment doubt but what all were cognizant of that fact. The criticism was written by a friend of ours by special request, and was printed for good and sufficient reason.

Whilst apologizing for antiquities we will also say to the *Hebrew* that the George Washington letter published by us last week was not given as news matter, it having also been written some time ago.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The second jubilee number of the *Menorah Monthly* has made its appearance. In its dress of white and gold it is a typographical gem. It contains a full account of the jubilee celebration, with all the toasts and addresses delivered on the several occasions of the celebration, together with other relevant matter. It has one hundred and twenty-eight pages of reading matter, and fifty-five full page lithographs of the various institutions of the Bnai Berith throughout the country. It is a splendid publication and a most creditable testimony to the enterprise and energy of the editor, Mr. M. Ellinger.

Another aspirant for honors in the field of Jewish journalism is the *Jewish Herald*, a monthly paper, published in New York. Its typography is excellent. The first number seems to have been sacrificed to the Lebanon Hospital, of which institution and its officers it has a lengthy account. Its aims are high, as the editor, Mr. M. G. Landsberg, puts it:

"THE JEWISH HERALD will aim to be the exponent of Judaism in New York in its truest and best sense. It will advocate measures and reforms which cannot but redound to the benefit of Judaism. It will be fearless and outspoken in the expression of its views on all subjects, and will always be intensely Jewish in its tendencies without a particle of alloy in its composition."

We welcome it to the field and hope it will remain true its aim.

The *Jewish Spectator*, of Memphis Tenn., is as usual newsy throughout, earnest and thoughtful in its editorials, among them is an answer to the question "What is Pantheism?"

There is also a very readable article, from the pen of Miss Kate Harden on "The Jewish Factor in the History of Civilization."

A recent action by Golden Gate Lodge, I. O. B. B., of San Francisco, provides that all brethren above the age of sixty, shall be exempt from paying endowment assessments, which in future are to be paid by the lodge. This action is a splendid demonstration of humanitarianism and fraternity. The men of Golden Gate have shown themselves to be imbued with the spirit of the great Order to which they belong. All honor to them.—*Jewish Progress*.

Smithdeal Business

College has been moved to 1002 east Broad street, opposite New City Hall and next to Broad-Street Methodist Episcopal church, and an ENGLISH DEPARTMENT opened in addition to the business branches already taught. A very scholarly man, a graduate of two colleges, will manage this new and important addition, where Spelling, Reading, Grammar, Rhetoric, Composition, Arithmetic, and Writing will be taught and other branches added as demand requires. Call at the College or address.

G. M. SMITHDEAL,
PRESIDENT.