

# THE JEWISH SOUTH.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF  
JUDAISM.

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FIFTY-SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY-EIGHT.

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AND MAY there be many happy returns.

"HERE'S TO you and your good family; may you  
all live long and prosper."

To THE people of the far South, who are threat-  
ened with the scourge of pestilence, will our hearts  
go out during these hours of gladness. May the  
Great Physician deal mercifully and avert from them  
disaster of every kind.

FROM A casual examination of Henrietta Szold's  
translation of "The Talmud," a French sketch by  
Arsène Darmesteter, a copy of which was received  
this week, we are led to believe that this little volume  
will prove one of the most interesting issued for some  
time by the Jewish Publication Society.

AFTER ITS customary summer vacation, *Helpful  
Thoughts*, the Jewish children's paper, is again with  
us. The current issue has a short story by Rabbi  
Calisch, of this city. If the little journal brings as  
much genuine joy into each house it enters as it does  
to our own youngster, who awaits its coming with  
eagerness each month, its editors are indeed repaid  
for their labors.

GREAT IS Atlanta. Its council has passed an ordi-  
nance giving sixty days in the chain-gang to any one  
who says yellow fever is in that city.

We have not much opinion of the practicability of  
legislating people into telling the truth, but when, as  
we see from the New Orleans *Jewish Ledger*, commu-  
nities are being damaged by untruthful reports, we

do not blame the municipal lawmakers for attempt-  
ing to put a stop to it.

P. S.—Since the above was put into type, we learn  
from the press dispatches, that, a la Copernicus,  
there is a case of the fever in Atlanta "for all that."  
The entire Board of Health, by whom the statement  
is made, will, we suppose, have to spend the next  
two months in the chain-gang. Fortunately there is  
no presidential election this year.

Contributed to THE JEWISH SOUTH.

## A New Year's Prayer.

למנות ימינו כי הודע' וּבִיא לִבֵּן חַכְמָה :

"O teach us so to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

So prayed the noblest spirit, the bravest heart,  
the truest soul that ever walked this earth—the meek  
and holy prophet Moses in that matchless composi-  
tion styled a Prayer of Moses, the Man of God.

And now, as the New Year draws nigh, let us sin-  
cerely reëcho the words of the man of God, and en-  
treat the Omniscient One to "teach us so to number  
our days that we may apply our hearts unto  
wisdom"

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wis-  
dom" and the end of all human understanding.  
Naught thought, attempted, or done, save for those  
ends for which God created this world, can stand:  
all else may flourish for a while, but not being  
founded in wisdom, bears within itself the seed of  
incipient decay, and sooner or later falls into ruin,  
and drops to earth to rise no more. Thus the  
mighty empires of old passed away—the Assyrian,  
the Babylonian, the Persian, the Grecian, the Ro-  
man—passed away and are almost forgotten, be-  
cause not founded upon the wise principles of truth,  
justice, and right. But the feeble few who upheld  
God's banner, and who fought for the elevation of  
humanity, have survived to witness the complete  
overthrow of those that for a time seemed destined  
by their evil ways to entirely exterminate all oppo-  
sition. God did not create this world that men  
should use it for their own selfish ends; He founded  
it in wisdom, established it in justice, that it might  
be the scene of joy, love, and happiness for all his  
creatures. 'Tis to this end that all wisdom strives  
to diminish suffering and sorrow, and to increase  
joy. The decrease of sickness, pauperism, crime,  
pestilence, war, is the object aimed at in all ages by  
the faithful, noble, and true. They strove so to num-  
ber their days as to apply their hearts unto wisdom.

The world is divided into two great camps, those  
that strive to improve themselves and the rest of  
mankind, and those who through thoughtlessness or  
indifference deteriorate themselves, and form a pow-  
erful auxiliary to those actively wicked and vicious.

"Choose ye this day whom ye shall serve, if the  
Lord be God, follow him; if Baal, follow him."