

capabilities. Therefore, the stage impressing the public mind in its different characters should picture the Jew in his present condition and not as he was believed to have been in the past, when his chances for advancement were not as good as his fellowmen's. And he is slowly gaining his way, even on the stage, as an honorable character and not as a mark for satire and ridicule. In "Men and Women," a modern drama, "Israel Cohen," a Jew, one of the leading characters, is the personification of integrity and honor, the president of a bank, and beloved by his community. Let us hope that future authors and playwrights, when introducing Jewish characters and traits, will study, investigate, and learn their true, genuine qualities, and then when the stage portrayal is given the Jew will be justly depicted as he is, and by this means much will be done towards dissipating the false impression of his character and toward breaking down the barrier between Jew and non-Jew. *Jewish Criterion*.

Baron William Rothschild an Anchorite.

Baron William Rothschild, the present representative of the great family of bankers in Frankfort, is a very eccentric man. He is a recluse. He lives within himself and does not seem to enjoy the society of his fellowmen. His habits are those of an anchorite. No monk of the middle ages was more scrupulous about his religious duties or more abstemious in his diet. Baron William observes all the Mosaic injunctions. He takes his own cook and cooking utensils wherever he goes, and his food is prepared according to the strictest Jewish regimen. He will never sit at the same table with a Christian nor partake of food from which a Christian has eaten. He is always very courteous and even deferential in his manner, but if he is in the same room with a Christian who is standing Baron Rothschild will sit down. If the Christian sits down he rises. In the plain little office where he receives those who have business with him there is only one chair. The entire furnishings of the room would not bring \$5 at an auction. He has the same desk and other furniture that was used by his father and grandfather, and I was informed that he has written with the same quill for more than forty years, but that may be an exaggeration. He has, however, worn the same hat for nearly a quarter of a century, and it is said that he buys a new suit of clothes every fifth year.

This is not due to parsimony, for Baron Rothschild's residences are numerous and palatial, he has a host of servants, fine horses and carriages, and his family fare sumptuously every day. He is very generous and gives to several men of his race every year much more than he spends for his own comfort. His wants are few. It is his pleasure to live simply, and he enjoys his own society more than he does that of other men.

Another of Baron Rothschild's peculiarities is to

conceal his benevolence. He is said to give away a great deal of money, but if the man who receives it ever mentions the fact so that it comes to the baron's ears he is not likely to get any more. His contributions to general benevolence are always anonymous or pass through the hands of the rabbis. His name never appears upon any subscription list. This is due partially, perhaps, to the scriptural injunction about concealing from one hand what the other hand is doing, but also to a horror of notoriety. He has never allowed his biography to be written and was never photographed or had his picture painted. No likeness exists or ever has been made of him. When I asked his secretary for some biographical information he replied that while, no doubt, Baron Rothschild would feel highly complimented at the interest expressed concerning him by the *Chicago Record*, he would be greatly obliged if his name were left entirely out of its columns; and as for giving me any information himself the baron would never forgive him in the world if he did.

Baroness Rothschild is very different from her husband. She is recognized as the society leader of Frankfort and is one of the most accomplished, influential, and admired ladies in Germany. She is the intimate friend of the Dowager Empress Frederick, and they have villas adjoining at Kronberg, in the mountains near Hamburg. The Empress Frederick always stops with the Baroness "Willy," as they call her, when she comes to Frankfort, and they visit back and forth quite frequently. She is also a great favorite in court circles in Berlin, and is perhaps the only Jewess in Germany who is received everywhere. Her name is powerful. Whatever she patronizes goes. While she is in a manner exclusive, she is very gracious and considerate to other people and democratic in her manners. Mrs. Mason, the wife of the United States consul general, and her mother, the widow of the late Judge Burchard, of Warren, are among her intimate friends. The whole city treats her with a respect that amounts almost to reverence, and when one asks about the intellectual women of Germany her name is always mentioned first, and perhaps that of Mrs. Max Goldsmit, her daughter, second. Baron Rothschild has another daughter, who married her cousin Count Edouard Rothschild, and lives in Paris. He never had any sons.

Baroness Rothschild has indulged in literature and art, but her musical accomplishments are better known. She was a pupil of Rubinstein, and there is a story that she was once engaged to marry him, but that was a long time ago and may be only a romance. She has composed both for the voice and the piano, and two of her songs, "Rose Bruyere" (Briar Rose) and "Si tu n'avais rien a me dire" (If Thou Hast Nothing to Tell Me), are sung all over the world. Adelina Patti first made them famous. One of them is dedicated to her. She too has been a friend of the Baroness Rothschild for many years.