

THE JEWISH SOUTH

Volume IX—Number 4.

RICHMOND, VA., FEBRUARY 4, 1898.

Whole Number 210.

Richmond News.

Governor Tyler has appointed Mr. Lee Reinheimer a notary public.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Hutzler have returned from their bridal tour.

Mrs. David Hirsh, of Fredericksburg, is the guest of Mrs. I. Cohen.

Mr. Gabriel Schlachter is quite sick at the residence of Mr. Labenberg.

Mrs. Motz Prag, of Baltimore, is visiting her mother, Mrs. I. M. Rosenbaum, 607 east Grace street.

The late charity ball netted \$1,400, which will be turned over to the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Association.

Mr. Felix Hessberg has left for Boston, Mass., where he will engage in the wholesale shoe business on his own account.

About fifty or sixty friends of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Held took them by surprise last Sunday night upon the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of their marriage.

The new board of the Jefferson Club is making good its determination to popularize the "Ladies' Evenings," for the musicale and hop last night was certainly one of the most enjoyable affairs yet given.

Mrs. S. J. Platt and her step-son, Mr. Aaron J. Platt, celebrated their birthdays jointly last Sunday night at their residence, No. 9 south Morris street. A number of invited guests were in attendance, among them being Mr. An-el Platt, of Hampton, Va., Mrs. Platt's brother-in-law.

The large congregation at Beth Ahaba synagogue last Friday night proved indisputably that THE JEWISH SOUTH is not only the proper but a thorough medium of conveying information to the Jewish community. The announcement that Rabbi Benjamin would officiate was made in our columns alone, and the result was an attendance many times the usual size.

In searching among the records of the Beth Ahaba Congregation several days ago, Mr. Isaac Held came across a marriage contract book kept by the late Rev. M. J. Michelbacher from 1846 to 1860. During that time he performed eighty-eight marriages, a much larger number proportionally than have taken place for many years past. Strange to say, the first certificate in the book was that of Mr. Held's parents.

Pleaded for the Sabbath Lamp.

A genuine "Yom Kippur" congregation greeted

Rev. R. Benjamin at the synagogue Beth Ahaba last Friday night. Mr. E. Bottighimer read the regular services, and at their conclusion the visiting rabbi announced as the text of his discourse the words of Bilaam when sent for by the King of Moab to curse the Israelites: "How beautiful are thy tents, O, Jacob; thy tabernacles, O, Israel."

The rabbi began by stating that there was something that had been worrying the Jews for a long time, and which had troubled him for several years. It is the fact that the Jews nowadays seem to have so little religion. He had cast about for the cause and he believed that he had found it in the fact that no attention is paid to the faith in the home by the wives, sisters, and mothers.

Continuing, the speaker alluded in turn to many of the customs of former days, and made a strong plea for the restitution of the Sabbath lamp. Not that the light itself amounts to anything, but it is a tenet of Judaism that one good deed leads to another; and as by making a distinction between the Sabbath and other days, one Sabbath might be observed, so the keeping of one Sabbath would lead to the keeping of another. There was nothing to be feared by the Jewish housewife, that her husband or children would deride her for lighting the Sabbatical light. The children are too well raised, and every husband who comes home from his week's work would but feel all the happier and greet his wife all the more fondly by token of this reminder of his boyhood days.

The rabbi advocated sincerity in all things, and strongly deprecated that in many pulpits nowadays it was supplanted by "pyrotechnical eloquence," which did naught as a religious help.

Dr. Benjamin spoke in a fatherly, sympathetic manner, which greatly impressed his hearers.

Saturday morning he preached on the value of home influences. Sunday morning he addressed the children of the Beth Ahaba Sunday school.

Those who met Rabbi Benjamin at the synagogue after services and at the home of his hosts, Mr. and Mrs. I. Cohen, were charmed with his delightful social qualities.

Golden Wedding Celebration.

The Peoria (Ill.) *Herald*, of January 27th, published a double column picture of Mr. and Mrs. A. Woolner, of that city, with an extended account of their golden wedding celebration the preceding day. This lady and gentleman, as our readers are aware, are the parents of Mrs. E. N. Calisch, of this city, who, with her husband, the rabbi, was present at the festivities. Mrs. Woolner is 70 years of age, and her husband is five years her senior.