

# The Jewish Criterion.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
CRITERION PUBLISHING CO.,

**Business Office,**  
McKenna Bldg., First Av. & Ross St.  
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**TERMS:**

**ONE YEAR,** - - - - - **\$2.00**  
**SIX MONTHS,** - - - - - **\$1.00**

**PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.**

Entered as second-class matter at the Pittsburg Post office.

Subscribers will kindly notify the office of any irregularity in the delivery of their paper.

All communications of a business nature should be addressed to THE JEWISH CRITERION, 104 Fifth avenue, Pittsburg, Pa.

All items pertaining to the Literary Department should be sent to 202 Ferguson Block.

What with their donations to the Temple, the Gusky Home, the Columbian Council School and the Hebrew Union College, the members of Rodeph Shalom have certainly translated the principles of religion into active piety during the last nine months.

Don't be afraid if a few people object to your religious beliefs! Don't tremble if a little, or much, adverse criticism is indulged in at the expense of your convictions. In their heart of hearts the most rabid opponent of your religion has more respect for courageous convictions than for weak-kneed compliance to the views of others. Whoever you are be true to yourself!

The orthodox congregation which, according to the Associated Press dispatches, advised the Reform Rabbis to go bodily over to the dominant faith, would do better if they tried to bring the members of their own party to observe what they call Judaism. It is all very good criticizing Reformers; until their critics excel them in the observance of the dictates of the Law, the Prophets, the Talmud and the Shulk'han 'Arukh, the Reformers will have the better side of the argument. Of two children called by their father who is worse— he who says "I won't come," or he who says "I will come, but does not?"

There is much truth in the following remarks of Rabbi Franklin, of Detroit, published in his very readable "Jewish American" last week:

"However deeply the minister may appreciate other tokens of esteem and affection, he cannot be content unless his people by their moral support and co-operation give him the assurance that they maintain him because he fills a place in their lives, and because they know that his office is one of dignified responsibility, to the successful fulfillment of which he requires the help of every man and woman in his congregation.

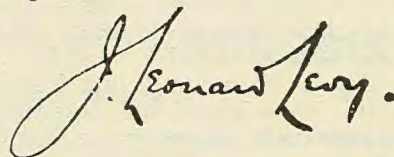
"The true minister wants no flattery, but an honest word of encouragement. He despises the hypocritical assurance of esteem which is not combined with that respect which embodies itself in a hearty and helpful co-operation in his activities."

The temper of American Jewish orthodoxy may be seen from the action of Mikve Israel, of Philadelphia, which, at its recent meeting, voted not to engage the services of a lecturer. Are we to assume that even the orthodoxy of a graduate of the Hebrew Seminary was not satisfactory or that those good, pious, observant (?) people, who sneer at Reform are unwilling to raise the sum necessary to pay a teacher of religion? Or, mayhap, they know too much to need further instruction from the pulpit! What would good, reverend Sabato Morais say if he could speak on the action of his former congregants?

We are indebted to the London "Jewish World" for the following facetious definition of a Jew by an Irishman. It must be remembered that Jews are comparatively few in Ireland, and in some parts of the country the question often comes up by the fireside: "Wisha, are there still any Jews in the world?" "Are Jews also Christians?" is another oft-recurring question. To this latter the following disquisition was delivered in reply by a grey-headed mountaineer down in Kerry: "Ye see, Christchuns are Christchuns. Horses and cows and sheep are not Christchuns, because thim have no souls. Jews are Christchuns, for thim Jews have got souls, only they are no good to 'eem. They are Christchuns, but they have got their own raligun, ye see."

We have read many articles, recently, on the relative merits of orthodoxy and reform. At this season of the year, when conventions and conferences fill the air with the far-resounding reports of committees, etc., there is more or less of bitterness engendered by partisan activity. In last Friday's "American Israelite" the very able Rev. Dr. B. A. Elzas, who has been publishing some very timely articles in the Israelite, spoke concerning some of the set forms of attack on Reform. He very cleverly and very truthfully had the following to say:

"The fact of the matter is that our reforms were instituted by capable leaders, who knew the law and respected it. No sudden changes would ever have been made but for the non possumus attitude of the Orthodox. True, the Reformer adapts his religion to the needs of the time, but the conservative does the same, though he pretends not to do so. He has his pews, he has his organ and female voices in his choir, he has his prayers in English and, generally speaking keeps just what suits him and nothing more. The Reformer is at least consistent. What is the authority for conservative Orthodoxy? It is a mongrel product without any standing. Consistent Orthodoxy is at least worthy of respect."



### CONGREGATIONAL NOTES.

#### Rodeph Shalom.

Rabbi Levy can be seen at his office on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 9 till 10:30, or during the week by appointment. 'Phones in office, 1280 Grant and 707 Main; residence, 1110 East. Rabbi and Mrs. Levy are "at home" Fridays, afternoon and evening.

The regular Sabbath Service will be held each Saturday at 10:30 a. m. On Sabbath next Rabbi Levy will deliver a sermon entitled, "Peace."

The Religious School will meet this coming Sunday at 10:30 a. m.

The following collection was made in the Religious School last Sunday:

Class A (Miss Amberg).....	\$ .58
Class B (Miss Mayer).....	.53
Class C (Miss Levy).....	.60
Class D (Miss Lowenstein)...	.79
Class E (Miss Bing).....	.50
Class F (C. H. Joseph).....	.22
Confirmation Class .....	.69
Total .....	\$3.91

This amount included the following for birthday celebrations: Madeline Wildberg, for her brother Leslie (10th); Leslie Wildberg (10th); Lydia Lowenthal, for her uncle Aaron Kingsbacher (49th); Naomi Streng, for her brother (16th).

At the invitation of the united G. A. R. Posts of Allegheny, Rabbi J. Leonard Levy will deliver the Memorial Oration in Carnegie Hall, on the coming Decoration Day. The G. A. R. Posts will also attend a special service in the Temple on Sunday evening, May 25th, at 7:45 o'clock.

On the 8th inst. Rabbi J. Leonard Levy delivered his address, "The Spirit of Modern Judaism," in Carnegie Hall, Braddock; on the 13th inst. he delivered the same lecture in the First Baptist Church, Rochester, at the invitation of the Rev. Dr. Bonsall.

The banner, last Sunday, was awarded to Miss Mayer's Class.

Rabbi Levy has been invited by the Committee of the Allegheny High School to deliver the oration at the graduating exercises of the High School on June 19th.

#### Tree of Life.

The address of Rabbi Michael Fried is 3432 Forbes street. Bell phone 134-2 Park.

The subject of Rabbi Fried's sermon next Saturday will be, "Cleanliness."

Next Sunday afternoon Rabbi Fried will officiate at the laying of the corner stone of the new synagogue at Braddock, Pa.

Last Sunday, May 11th, Rabbi Fried visited the Jewish Religious Society which he organized last year at Connellsville, Pa. The Religious School had a full attendance in the three classes in charge of the following teachers, Miss Robins, Miss Aarons and Miss Lena Katz. Rabbi Fried examined the various classes and the children showed great proficiency in their studies. Much credit is due to the teachers, as well as to Mr. Cohen and M. Rosenblum, who acts in the capacity of superintendent. At the close of the session the children assembled and were addressed by Rabbi Fried explaining to the children the work of the Columbian Council School of Pittsburg, and asked them to help this worthy institution by making a collection through the cards which he distributed to each child. They all showed great enthusiasm and promised to have their cards filled and send a good donation to the C. C. S.

Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Rau visited the Sunday school of "Tree of Life" Congregation last Sunday and spoke to the children in the interest of the Columbian Council School.

#### CRETE.

The last census of this island gives a population of 726 Jews among 301,273 inhabitants.