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THE  
JEWISH MISCELLANY.  
No. XIII.

שמע ישראל

THE  
SPIRIT OF JUDAISM.  
BY GRACE AGUILAR.

"Thou makest us a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round us,—yet have we not forgotten thee."—PSALM xlii.  
"Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that ye may KNOW and BELIEVE me. This people have I formed for myself, they shall show forth my praise."—ISAIAH xlii. 10, 21.

EDITED BY ISAAC LEESER.

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SECOND EDITION.

M. I. COHEN  
PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY

5609.



## SHEMANG YISRAEL.

HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. AND THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIGHT. AND THESE WORDS, WHICH I COMMAND THEE THIS DAY, SHALL BE UPON THY HEART: AND THOU SHALT TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY UNTO THY CHILDREN, AND SHALT SPEAK OF THEM WHEN THOU SITTEST IN THY HOUSE, AND WHEN THOU WALKEST BY THE WAY, AND WHEN THOU LIEST DOWN, AND WHEN THOU RISEST UP. AND THOU SHALT BIND THEM FOR A SIGN UPON THY HAND, AND THEY SHALL BE AS FRONT-LETS BETWEEN THY EYES. AND THOU SHALT WRITE THEM UPON THE DOOR-POSTS OF THY HOUSE, AND ON THY GATES.

DEUTERONOMY vi. 4-9.

C. SHERMAN, PRINTER,

19 St. James Street.

TO HER

WHOSE PRECEPTS AND EXAMPLE  
ORIGINALLY INSPIRED THE SENTIMENTS CONTAINED

IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES,

THE TENDER GUARDIAN OF MY INFANCY,

THE SOLE INSTRUCTRESS OF MY YOUTH,

THE FAITHFUL FRIEND OF RIPER YEARS,

TO

MY BELOVED MOTHER,

This Volume

IS MOST GRATEFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.



## EDITOR'S PREFACE.

IT is with a high degree of gratification that I am enabled to introduce to our religious public a new labourer in the elucidation of our time-honoured faith, in the person of Miss Aguilar, the author of the present publication. This, however, is not her first work; as about four years since she committed to the press a translation of the "Israel Defended," by Don Isaac Orobio, the brave and undaunted defender of the Mosaic religion. In addition to this, Miss Aguilar has written several fugitive poetical and prose pieces, few only of which have reached me.

My first published sermons having attracted the kind attention of Miss A., she requested me to undertake the editorial supervision of her MS. work on the "Spirit" of our religion. I shall readily be believed when asserting, that I felt truly happy that such a demand had been made upon me; and I accordingly offered my services to do as I was desired. Somewhat more than two years ago, Miss A. having finished her work sent it out to America through a private channel; but from some cause unknown it never reached me. She had accordingly to undertake the laborious task of re-writing it from her original sketches, and she completed it anew about this time last year. Last May I at length received this long-expected book, and had it not been for many unforeseen interruptions, its publication would not have been delayed till this time. The work is now, however, safely afloat on the ocean of public opinion; and I assure my friends that they cannot afford me a greater pleasure than to receive kindly and favourably the offering on the shrine of our religion so beautifully offered by our distant sister, distant only in body, because though residing in another hemisphere, her spirit is linked to ours by the ties of national consanguinity and the bonds of one belief in the same kind and omnipotent God, whose are the sea and the dry land.

It would not become me to speak of the merits of this work, as it might be supposed that I were but offering the usual and fulsome adulation, which it is only too much the fashion to bestow on an author. Yet I may say without hesitation, that our females will find in it many passages peculiarly calculated to win and arrest



when all that is here comprised is indeed obeyed; when we behold Hebrew parents bringing up their children in the fear of the Lord, and according to the law of Moses, —the Bible read, studied, alike in English as in our own language, and *believed* by every Israelite, male or female; when the Sabbath-day is hallowed, the love of interest and money giving place to the pure love of God; worldly ambition set at nought when it can only be gratified at the expense of Judaism; when the Jewish nation glories in her captive state as a proof that she is the chosen of the Lord, and hails the fulfilment of these awful threatenings as convincing evidence that the glorious promises will be with equal truth fulfilled; when such things are: then indeed may we hope that the period of our redemption is drawing nigh, our release from captivity at hand, the advent of our Messiah approaching, —when every remaining prophecy shall be gloriously, blessedly, fully, accomplished, “When the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy; when they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

THE END.

## TO THE READERS OF THE JEWISH MISCELLANY.

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WITH the present work the Publication Committee of the American Jewish Publication Society finish their labours for the third year of the Society, in the fond anticipation that they may enjoy many years the pleasure of furnishing edifying and useful reading to the American Israelites. In the *Spirit of Judaism*, which is now presented in a cheap and a generally accessible form, there will be found much to instruct, and a great deal to elevate the soul of a true believer, and it is confidently hoped that it may be made the instrument of winning many souls to heaven. In this second edition no other than a few verbal corrections have been introduced, both in text and notes; otherwise it is a literal transcript from the one prepared in the author's lifetime by the present editor. In selecting this book for our series, the Committee were actuated by the conviction that they could not aid the cause of Judaism better than by furnishing to the many the beautiful thoughts of one who has, though early called from her labours, done so much to make the faith of Israel loved and admired; and sure we are that were she now on earth, she herself would



rejoice at finding her labours so appreciated by the community at large, that a new edition is required to be sent abroad, and this under the auspices of our Society. The Committee cannot indeed share all the sentiments of this work, but a sufficient number of notes have been appended to apprise the reader of our dissent to particular passages, and this is all which could be demanded.

The Committee would earnestly urge on all enlightened Israelites the propriety of inducing their friends to become members of our Society, so that through our means much light may be diffused among all classes of our people, in order that no one may be left ignorant of his belief and duties.

THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

Nov. 30th, 5609.