

JEWISH LIFE IN THE EAST

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Jewish life in the East by Sydney Montagu Samuel

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SYDNEY MONTAGU SAMUEL

**JEWISH LIFE
IN THE EAST**

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BY

SYDNEY MONTAGU SAMUEL

[Reprinted, under permission, from the "Jewish Chronicle"]

LONDON

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1881

TO
S. M.,
IN TOKEN OF AFFECTION,
A FOLLOWER IN HIS FOOTSTEPS
DEDICATES
THIS BOOK.

P R E F A C E.

THE following pages contain the results of an investigation which I made, in the months of October, November, and December, 1879, as to the moral and physical condition of such of my brethren in race, as are domiciled in the "Holy Land" and other parts of the East.

A quest for the recovery of lost health was the motive of my journey, and the absence of other set plan or purpose, will account for the sketchy character of these papers.

For the sake, possibly, of the large amount of purely descriptive matter which they contain, many of these sketches upon making their appearance in the *Jewish Chronicle*, were reproduced in the various Christian sectarian journals, as well as in general newspapers, both British, American, and foreign. This circumstance must

serve as the excuse for the present collection of them in the form of a book.

The non-Jewish reader will kindly bear in mind that if I appear to dwell unduly upon the defects of my brethren in the East, it is because their merits are already well-known to their co-religionists in this country. The appendix contains an opinion of Sir A. H. Layard, confirmatory of my own; an exposition of Mr. Lawrence Oliphant's admirable scheme for the colonization of Palestine by Jews; and a reprinted "leader" on the same subject.

S. M. S.

LONDON, *June*, 1880.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
THE JEWISH QUARTER OF CAIRO	1
THE JEWS OF PORT SAÏD	12
JAFFA	18
FROM SUNSET TO SUNRISE	28
THROUGH THE WILDERNESS OF JUDÆA	35
THE CRADLE OF THE HEBREW RACE—HEBRON	49
SKETCHES OF THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE JEWS	
OF JERUSALEM :—	62
1. GENERAL ASPECT OF THE CITY	62
2. PHYSICAL AND MORAL CHARACTERISTICS	74
3. THE EDUCATIONAL QUESTION	95
4. THE "HALUKAH" (COMMUNAL CHARITY) ..	102
5. THE SYNAGOGUES	108
6. "TALMUD TORAH" (STUDY OF THE LAW) ...	114
7. MEDICAL CHARITIES	121
8. ALMSHOUSES	125

	PAGE
9. BUILDING SOCIETIES	130
10. THE WORK OF THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE JEWS	134
11. SCHOOLS AND MINOR COMMUNAL INSTITU- TIONS	142
12. AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL COLONIES	147
13. PROSPECTS	150
14. SUGGESTIONS	154
THE JEWS OF BEYROUT	159
THE JEWS OF SMYRNA	165
THE JEWS OF CONSTANTINOPLE ...	174
APPENDIX	187

JEWISH LIFE IN THE EAST.



THE JEWISH QUARTER OF CAIRO.

IN sharp contrast to the proximate Pyramids and other colossal relics of bygone Egyptian splendour ; in sharper contrast to the surrounding Desert with its ever-shifting sand and its strings of camels ; in sharper contrast still to the broad streets, magnificent mansions, and luxuriant, well-watered gardens laid out by the deposed Khedive, whose ambition it was to make of Cairo an Eastern rival to the Western gaiety of Paris—an ambition, like so many other human aspirations, destined only for non-fulfilment—the bazaars of the Egyptian capital, teeming with noisy life, and full of bustle and variety, offer to the traveller a spectacle replete with novelty, and of never-ending interest. Here, in narrow, tortuous streets, the *petit com-*