

**ASPECTS OF
JUDAISM BEING
SIXTEEN SERMONS**

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Aspects of Judaism being sixteen sermons by Israel Abrahams & Claude G. Montefiore

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ISRAEL ABRAHAMS & CLAUDE G. MONTEFIORE

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ASPECTS OF JUDAISM

BEING

Sixteen Sermons

BY

ISRAEL ABRAHAMS

AND

CLAUDE G. MONTEFIORE

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PREFACE.

THE Sermons contained in this volume, with three exceptions, were all delivered at various Jewish religious services. Though there is no basis in Jewish history for a distinction between clergy and laity, in practice such a distinction inevitably arose towards the end of the middle-ages. Yet, laymen though we are, and though our opinions on many points may not be generally shared by Jews, we have nevertheless been permitted to occupy the pulpit in several Jewish places of worship. This fact is not merely a source of gratification to ourselves, but seems to speak well for the liberality of modern Judaism.

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The views of the Jewish religion taken by the two contributors to this small book are in themselves not altogether identical. We feel, however, that over and above the bond of friendship and of common literary work, there is sufficient consistency of teaching to justify the two sets of sermons being included within the same covers. We ought perhaps to add that neither of us has been at pains, in revising his sermons, to force absolute consistency even in his own individual views. Our words have been spoken at irregular intervals, extending over many years; and there may probably be some diversities of tone and thought between one sermon and the next.

We are fully conscious that our ideas are often tentative, and yet we hope there is some constructiveness as well. Doubtless the subjects chosen were frequently beyond our powers, but our imperfect and halting treatment of them has fulfilled, as we believe, one requisite at least, and therefore to this

single merit we may lay claim. We have written honestly and without reserve. We have expressed our full selves and extenuated nothing. If it be found that our faith in Judaism, as we conceive it, has sometimes clouded our judgment, we can but reply that this faith constitutes the only plea of justification for the present volume.

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