

**RICHARD CUMBERLAND:
CRITIC AND
FRIEND OF THE JEWS**

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Richard Cumberland: Critic and Friend of the Jews by Louis I. Newman & Ernestine P. Franklin

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LOUIS I. NEWMAN & ERNESTINE P. FRANKLIN

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Richard Cumberland
Critic and Friend of the Jews

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by

LOUIS I. NEWMAN
Rabbi of the Bronx Free Synagogue

WITH AN EDITION OF
"THE JEW"

Abridged by
ERNESTINE P. FRANKLIN

NEW YORK
BLOCH PUBLISHING COMPANY
1919

T.L.

Cumberland
Newman
-AN. Dur

To my
Synagogue Boys
and Girls

PREFACE

This little book is the outcome of a revival of interest in the works of Richard Cumberland, stimulated by the production of his famous play, "The Jew," by the Confirmants Club of the Bronx Free Synagogue, New York, on the evening of June 15th, 1919. Soon after, the author was requested by the "Jewish Daily News" of New York to prepare for publication a version of "The Jew" for use among similar groups throughout the country. I then undertook a study of the life and Jewish associations of Cumberland, making it a point to employ the original sources which the libraries of Columbia University and New York City amply afforded. No particular article on the Jewish references in Cumberland came to my

notice; several short contributions were discovered, among them the treatment of Cumberland in Calisch, "The Jew in English Literature" (Richmond, 1900) pp. 22, 107-8, 121; Levy, "Jewish Characters in Fiction" (Philadelphia, 1911) pp. 37-41; Philipson, "The Jew in English Fiction" (Cincinnati, 1889) pp. 54-69. My articles on "Richard Cumberland, Critic and Friend of the Jews" were published in the English section of the "Jewish Daily News" in July and August, and were reprinted in the "Jewish Gazette," from July to September, 1919. Through the kindness of the "Jewish Daily News" I am enabled to prepare these essays in book form. Shortly before their final examination, my attention was called to an important essay on Cumberland, by Louis Zangwill, brother of the celebrated Israel Zangwill, entitled: "Richard Cumberland Centenary Memorial Paper." It was read before the Jewish Historical Society of England, July 10, 1911, and was published in its "Transactions," London, 1915, pp. 146-179. The major portion of the article is

taken up with a biography of Cumberland's life, a discussion of his two portraits, one by Romney, and one by Clover, and by an estimate of his position in English letters. Only twelve pages (pp. 161-173) are dedicated to a consideration of Cumberland's "Jewish work." Hence the essay on "Richard Cumberland, Critic and Friend of the Jews" may be regarded as one of the first definite attempts to investigate as completely as present material affords, the Jewish interests of the great playwright.

A word must be said concerning the text of "The Jew" as abridged here by Miss Ernestine P. Franklin. Except for the dialect (which it is urged be omitted in production), the version represents substantially the form of the play as presented by the Confirmants Club on July 15th, and again on November 1st, 1919. The version is admirably suited for presentation by adult as well as by high school groups. The cast of characters in what we are pleased to call "The American Revival of Cumberland's 'Jew'" as given at

the Community Building Auditorium,
Bronx, New York, was as follows:

Sir Stephen BertramBernard Deligdisch
Frederick Bertram....	Sergius Slutzkin
Charles Ratcliffe.....	Milton Green
Sheva, the Jew.....	Richard B. Morris
Saunders.....	Arthur Posner
Jabal.....	Leopold Pincus
Mrs. Ratcliffe.....	Pauline Miller
Eleanor (or Eliza) Ratcliffe....Hilda L. Gross
Mrs. Goodison.....	Stella Mosbacher
Dorcas	Rosalie Schwartz.

Act I. Counting House of Sir Stephan Bertram.

Act II. Home of Sheva.

Act III. Scene 1—Home of Mrs. Ratcliffe. Scene 2—Same as Act I.

Act IV. Scene 1—Home of Mrs. Goodison. Scene 2—A Tavern.

Act V. Home of Mrs. Goodison.

Thanks are due Miss Ernestine P. Franklin for the original suggestion

to produce "The Jew," and for assistance in preparation of the play; to Mr. Richard B. Morris, for assistance in correcting the manuscript, and to Messrs. Brill and Bieley of the "Jewish Daily News" for their kind suggestions and cooperation. We offer this little volume to the Jewish and general public with the promise that an even more detailed study of Cumberland's works will at some time in the future be undertaken. We trust that this publication will give further momentum to the "American Revival of Cumberland's works."

L. I. N.

October 22nd, 1910.