THE JEW IN ENGLISH LITERATURE: AS AUTHOR AND AS SUBJECT

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649618279

The Jew in English Literature: As Author and as Subject by Edward N. Calisch

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EDWARD N. CALISCH

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THE JEW IN ENGLISH LITERATURE,

AS AUTHOR AND AS SUBJECT.

RABBI EDWARD N. CALISCH, B. L., M. A., Ph. D.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.
THE BELL BOOK AND STATIONERY CO., PUBLISHERS.

TO MY WIFE,

WHOSE CONSTANT ENCOURAGEMENT AND LOVING
SELF-SACRIFICE MADE IT POSSIBLE,
THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.

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PREFACE.

There is no one, perhaps, who realizes the possible limitations of this work more than the writer. I freely confess that, when I undertook it, I had no adequate conception of the vastness of its scope, or of the fertility of the ground I sought to cover. Why I did undertake it, or indeed why at all an American Rabbi, fully occupied with his professional duties, and in a city of limited library facilities, should have attempted to cover this phase of English literature, with the Atlantic Ocean between him and the source of his material, is a question apart. The attempt has been made, and if it will but somewhat open the eyes of others to the no small part the Jews have taken, both subjectively and objectively, in English literature, the attempt is not in vain.

The work is a pioneer of its kind. There have been some essays in this direction, one of the best being an article on "The Jew in Poetry and Drama," by Charles B. Mabon, in Vol. XI. of the Jewish Quarterly Review. But there is no work of any length that has come to my knowledge, and none at all that deals with Jewish authors. Dr. David Philipson's work, "The Jew in

English Fiction," covers but one phase of the subject, and only a limited portion of that phase. The two volumes, "Jews of Angevin England," by Dr. Joseph Jacobs, and "Bibliotheca Anglo-Judaica," by Lucien Wolf and Joseph Jacobs, are historical only in purpose and scope. Yet they are rich in material for literary research, and I wish to acknowledge my great indebtedness to them. Especially to Dr. Jacobs are my obligations profound. His work was my constant guide in the pre-Elizabethan era, and without it I would have missed much that belongs to that period. His great knowledge of the subject and his courtesy in responding to demands upon his time are also gratefully appreciated. My thanks are also due to Mr. Israel Abrahams and the Rev. Morris Joseph for valuable suggestions and corrections.

E. N. C.

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