

**THE JEWS IN AMERICA; A SHORT  
STORY OF THEIR PART IN THE BUILDING  
OF THE REPUBLIC, COMMEMORATING  
THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR SETTLEMENT**

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The Jews in America; a short story of their part in the building of the republic, commemorating the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of their settlement by Madison C. Peters

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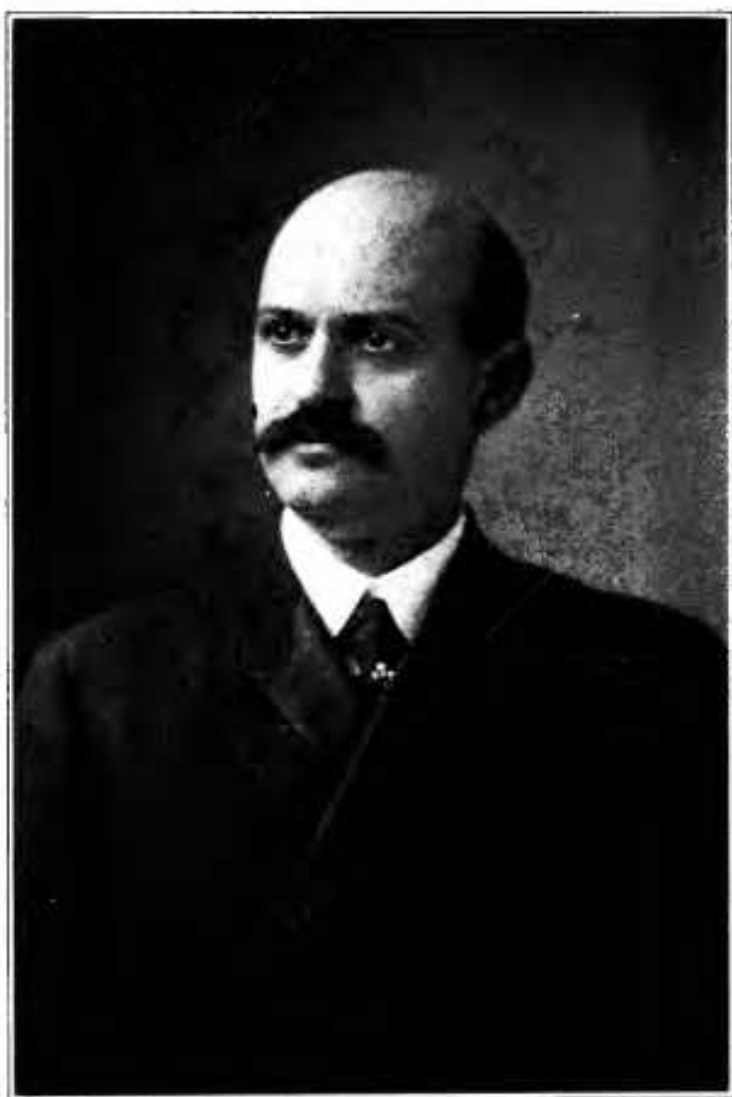
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MADISON C. PETERS, D.D.  
Pastor Baptist Church of the Epiphany  
New York

# The Jews in America

A SHORT STORY OF THEIR PART IN  
THE BUILDING OF THE REPUBLIC

*Commemorating the Two Hundred and Fiftieth  
Anniversary of Their Settlement*

BY

MADISON C. PETERS, D.D.

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## PREFACE

**O**LIVER WENDELL HOLMES in his "Over The Teacups," says: "If the creeds of mankind would try to understand each other before attempting mutual extermination, they would be sure to find a meaning in beliefs which are different from their own." Christians have many things in common with the Jews. We can readily agree with Lessing, when he makes the Christian monk say to the Jewish Nathan:

Heaven bless us!  
That which makes me to you a Christian  
Makes you to me a Jew.

It was said of Sydney Smith that he would not read a book which he was to review,—reading it might prejudice his judgment. When Charles Lamb was berating an enemy, some one said to him, "Why, you don't know him." Lamb re-



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plied, "I don't want to know him, for fear I should like him."

Christians and Jews make ignorance of each other a claim for judgment, and seem to be afraid to become acquainted for fear that they might like each other.

Few Christians know the relatively enormous part taken by the Jews, emancipated but a few decades, in the civilization of mankind. Lord Beaconsfield, when taunted in the House of Lords for his Jewish extraction, exclaimed, "I can well afford to be called a Jew." When the modern Jew enlightens himself upon the achievements of his race, practises the virtues and avoids the faults of his ancestors, he will prepare the way for a glorious future for himself and his descendants.

When an impartial historian shall write the wonderful achievements of the geniuses who produced our civilization, Jewish names will be found on every page, and the Jewish people might well take to heart Goethe's true lines :

Willst du immer weiter schweifen?

Sieh, das Gute liegt so nah.

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This brief story of what the Jew has done for America is written in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the settlement of the Jews in America, and is intended for popular use. It is a book of facts rather than opinions. It puts into brief space for the busy reader some facts the American public should know. The book is written with the hope that it may modify the views which the Gentile world holds with regard to the position of the Jew, and the Author's fervent prayer is that its facts may lead Christians to grant to the possession of the Jew, the mental, moral, social and spiritual qualifications which history affirms.

Special attention is given to the Jew as a patriot. Renan said, "A Jew will never be a patriot; he will simply live in the cities of others." This implies that the Jew is never a patriot. Such in substance is the indictment brought against the race by the anti-Semites of Europe and America.

Descent from the Jewish stock determines, with the author, who is to be regarded as a Jew. The almost incredible narrow-minded illiberality and antagonism to Jewish interests, of which the

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modern anti-Semites are still giving the world too frequent and too infamous exhibitions, accounts, for instance, for the descendants of Moses Mendelssohn having abandoned Judaism and professed Christianity. Such eminent men as Heine, Moscheles, Joachim, Rubinstein, Disraeli, Herschel, and other distinguished English, German, Polish, Hungarian and Russian-Jewish musicians, poets, painters, litterati, scientists and statesmen, finding that faithfulness to their ancient creed would interfere with the free exercise of their professional career, renounced its practice and professed the dominant religion of their native country. This, at once, removed every obstruction, all restriction and the religious prejudice, from which they would otherwise have suffered.

I have gathered the facts for these chapters from every available source. I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Hon. Simon Wolf, whose "Jew as an American Citizen, Soldier and Patriot" gives nearly 8,000 names of Jews who served on both sides in the Civil War.