

**A JEWISH CAROL
AND THE
INSUPERABLE BARRIER**

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A Jewish Carol and The Insuperable Barrier by Emily Ruth Calvin

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Sordially
Emily Ruth Palmer -

A Jewish Carol
AND THE
Insuperable Barrier

BY
EMILY RUTH CALVIN

WITH PREFACE BY
DR. EMIL G. HIRSCH



CHICAGO
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MDCCCII

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April



**The New York
Public Library**
ASTOR LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

Religion is a plant imbedded in the human heart,
and possessing manifold tendrils which reach out, and
enfolding the soul, become a vital part of man.

It is a plant requiring constant watchfulness, lest the
deadly insect—fanaticism—settle upon the fair leaves
and blight a sublime growth.

From "The Insuperable Barrier"
as originally published.

PREFACE.

The little book, which knocks at the doors of indulgent readers' library, in the hope of being accorded friendly hospitality, contains two brief sketches written with a view of illustrating some phases of Jewish life. The author is not a Jew. Her interest in the fate and faith, in the customs and prejudices of the Jew is, however, deep. Having had opportunity to become acquainted with the attitude of mind prevailing among the children of the ghetto, she has ventured to give her impressions body and shape and to present them in the concrete within the frame of these novelettes. It cannot be said that in all details she has grasped the fundamental motive power behind the peculiarities of those whom she depicts. On the whole, however, her delineations are fair, and, with certain modifications, correct. The problems here discussed have become pressing, especially within late years and in this country. They will continue to grow in intensity as the bars of separation become weaker and less sternly forbidding.

It is an honest mind that speaks to us through the following pages, one that, without prejudice, would contribute toward the solution of these social perplexities. I hope she will be accorded a willing and sympathetic hearing.

These sketches have been published before in serial form. One of them was received with cordial interest by the readers of the Reform Advocate. This circumstance encouraged the author to give the children of her pen a more permanent home.

I trust many will take pleasure in becoming acquainted with the characters of the sketches, and through them, also, with their mental parent.

EMIL G. HIRSCH.

*A Jewish Carol.**

A few miles from the frontier between Germany and Russia, in Poland, is the town of Ratzky, a picturesque place, very hilly, and surrounded by many ravines. Directly north is the public road leading to Suwalk Province. Twenty-five years ago the village was populated mainly by influential Jews.

One of the best known families of Ratzky was that of Joseph Turkovicz. A stern upright man, possessing an ungovernable intolerance for any Jew who might, though never so slightly, deviate from the beliefs and customs of his ancestors, he was yet a loving father to his son and two daughters. His wife, a worthy woman, who had brought up her children in an exemplary manner, appeared more lenient, judging from her calm demeanor; but beneath her tolerant exterior lay a will stern and unyielding.

Joseph Turkovicz possessed to an unusual extent the desire to have his children well educated, and to forward this end he had caused his home to be built but three squares from the

*Miss Calvin, the author of the stories in this book, is not a Jewess. Pub.