

**THE SETTLEMENT OF
THE JEWS IN NORTH
AMERICA**

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The settlement of the Jews in North America by Charles P. Daly

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CHARLES P. DALY

**THE SETTLEMENT OF
THE JEWS IN NORTH
AMERICA**

THE
Settlement of the Jews

IN NORTH AMERICA.

BY

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President of the American Geographical Society.

EDITED, WITH NOTES AND APPENDICES, BY

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PREFACE.

More than twenty years have now elapsed since Judge Daly's work was first presented to the public, yet I feel that no excuse or apology is necessary for its re-publication to-day.

Mr. Daly, then Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas of this city, originally prepared the work in the form of an address delivered at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of New York, on April 11, 1872, and then enlarged it for publication in *The Jewish Times* of that year. Subsequently, the accomplished and erudite author utilized a portion of the same data in an address delivered at the laying of the corner-stone of the new Hebrew Orphan Asylum, New York, May 17, 1883.* It seems to me that the work has not lost the smallest element of interest since that time, but, on the contrary, appeals to-day to a much larger public than then, and, as, unfortunately, it did not appear in durable form, will seem to be new to the large majority of its readers of to-day. Here and there, the student of American Jewish history has, since its original appearance, re-discovered Judge Daly's work in out-of-the-way and few-and-far-between corners, and drawn upon it as by far the

* This address was printed in full in *THE AMERICAN HEBREW* at the time and published in pamphlet form.

most valuable, comprehensive and interesting work on the subject. Many others, to my knowledge, have, after search, been unable to obtain the work, and the purpose of the present re-publication is to make it accessible to these, as well as to the large public whom the work will please for more general reasons. The causes of our interest in a work like the present are numerous and varied. Perhaps the most natural source of interest is our race pride, our gratification over the deeds of members of our race, present or past, purely because of our common ties of race.

Often this interest in and enthusiasm over our past is not only justifiable but commendable. When a recent emigré, like Goldwin Smith, has the arrogance and effrontery to characterize the Jews, especially those of America, as parasites, who wait till others have sown and then rush in to divide with them the harvest, it is well to point to co-religionists who for centuries were engaged in this country in the arduous, and often unproductive occupation of sowing, as a conclusive refutation of such assertions, born of ignorance and prejudice. In this sense we may be proud and rejoice that Jews were interested co-workers in the discovery, settlement and development of our land, and acquaint ourselves as well as our Christian neighbors with those incidents in our national history.

The work under consideration appeals to us also in other ways. No statement has, perhaps, come to be better recognized than that we cannot

understand the present without a study of the past. Incidents and traits suddenly come to the surface which a necessarily superficial consideration of present conditions does not explain. Other forces besides those we generally recognize, are working about us, and not the less effectively because the shallow, practical man of to day fails to note them. Problems of the present may often be solved by a study of past experiences. Besides, it has at length become recognized here and abroad that American Judaism has its own peculiar characteristics, virtues and vices, its own line of development. A work like the present one throws much new light and adds considerable interesting data to a study of these questions.

Since Judge Daly's work first appeared, there has been a sweeping revolution apparent in American Judaism. He wrote about the middle of the German-Jewish migration to America; since then other and far more numerous classes of Jews have arrived here, while their predecessors have multiplied and thrived. Our charities have increased and developed beyond all expectations, our standing and influence in the community even more so. But what interests us even more at this point is the intellectual development of the body of American Jews. We have erected and patronize scores of libraries. We have representatives in the faculties of nearly all our large colleges, many distinguished scholars among them. The Jewish press has increased in influence as well as numerically. Jewish Publication Societies which failed to interest

enough persons then, are to-day in that respect at least, thriving. Is it not time, then, that we take more interest in our past, and proceed to study it more carefully, and not content ourselves with stopping at a period two thousand years behind us? Perhaps the best answer to the question is the establishment of the American Jewish Historical Society, with many able workers enlisted in its service. The formation of such a society and the promises it offers for the future, seem to me the best proofs possible that the publication to day of Judge Daly's work, will not be followed by twenty years of inactivity and lack of interest in continuing and developing the subject-matter. No better work to start with, upon which to build, than Judge Daly's can be conceived of. Almost every line affords a chance for interesting elaboration and investigation. Nor can anything more conducive to systematic study and intelligent collection of data be obtained. Even at the last meeting of the Historical Society, there were several clear cases of unconscious re-discovering of data known to and employed by Judge Daly. It is with the expectation that the republication of the present work will be of interest and profit to the general public, as well as to the scholar, that it appears anew to-day. It is not for me to praise Judge Daly's work; the reader will soon have an opportunity to do that himself. I may be pardoned, however, if I add that the narrative is always interesting, no matter how trivial the incident might appear, if elaborated by some less able pen. Besides the

most intimate acquaintance with the data of New York and American history generally, Judge Daly's work is characterized by absolute accuracy of statement and impartiality of treatment. It is therefore with pleasure that we turn to his account of a people whom he describes as having "dwelt upon this island for more than two centuries, and who, though not, until a recent period, very numerous, have, as an integral portion of our population, exercised a very material influence upon the commercial development and prosperity of this city."

Judge Daly's work, as it originally appeared, contained numerous citations of authorities in the foot-notes. The editor has materially increased these, so as to render the work more valuable to the student, has verified almost every statement, and added some additional notes bearing on the text. All his notes are signed "Editor." He has also supplied an Introduction, based largely on a paper read by him before the American Jewish Historical Society in Philadelphia in December, 1892, upon "The Beginnings of New York Jewish History." He also wishes to add that he has attempted throughout to preserve absolutely the identity of Judge Daly's work, and has therefore in several instances reluctantly omitted notes bearing only distantly on the text.

His thanks are due to Judge Daly for kindly consenting to the republication of the work. Furthermore, Judge Daly kindly volunteered to write an additional instalment for this series; it is