

HEBREW SATIRE

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Hebrew satire by J. Chotzner

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J. CHOTZNER

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BY

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"HEBREW HUMOUR," ETC.

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PREFACE

VERY little attention has hitherto been paid by authors generally to those works forming part of Hebrew literature, in which much of delightful satire is predominant. The object of this volume, therefore, is to make the reader familiar with the contents of several of these writings which may prove interesting to him.

A few portions of this volume have already appeared in London periodicals, including "The Jewish Review," and some others thereof have served as the themes of lectures delivered to various literary societies.

J. C.

LONDON, *February* 1911.



CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	v
INTRODUCTION	1
"TITHES"	3
A WIFE'S RUSE	5
A RABBINICAL STORY OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT	7
THE BOASTFUL MERCHANT. By Alcharizi (1300)	9
THE FARMER'S FOLLY. By the Same Author	12
PIETY AND REMORSE. By Sahula (1300)	16
EXTRACTS FROM THE WRITINGS OF MANOELLO DI ROMA, A FRIEND OF DANTE (1400)	19
FICKLENESS OF WOMEN. By Joseph Zabara (1200)	23
THE REVEALER OF SECRETS. By Joseph Perl (1774)	28
EXTRACT FROM THE SATIRICAL WRITINGS OF ISAAC ERTER (1792-1815)	30
A STRANGE STORY. By M. D. Brandstätter	33
THE DISAPPOINTED "REBBE." By the Same Author	38
THE WAGGON'S AXLE. By Leon Gordon (1831)	42
"SHALET." By the Same Author	46
THE FATTED GEESE. By the Same Author	50
A CURIOUS INCIDENT. By the Same Author	52
THE DOT OF THE LETTER "VOD." By the Same Author	54
THE MISSING PANCAKES. By Peter Smolenskin (1872)	57
THE "CHEDER." By the Same Author	64

	PAGE
THE EXTINGUISHING OF TWO GREAT LIGHTS. By Mendel Dolitzki (1856)	68
THE HEBREW POET. By an Anonymous Hebrew Satirist	72
TIRZA, A DISILLUSION. By Simon Bacher (1860)	75
A GRIEVOUS DISAPPOINTMENT. By M. Scheikewitz, a modern Hebrew Satirist	76
FALSE HOPES. By Blatick, a modern Hebrew Writer	78
THE PRIDE OF POSSESSION. By M. Berdashevsky	79
THE RICH UNCLE. By A. G. Genesin.	84
A DREAM AND ITS MEANING. By M. Frischman	89
A LOVER'S TRAGEDY. By M. Peretz	91
JOY AND SORROW	95
A PLEASANT SURPRISE	100
BEREL AND SHMEREL	103
A CURIOUS MS.	107
A "PURIM" PLAY	112
LOST AND FOUND	118
"THE SONG OF SONGS"	122
POVERTY AND WEALTH	126
UNPLEASANT SURPRISES	131
TWO GHETTO IDIOTS	136
THE "REBBE'S" PIPE	140
LAYZER AND PAYZER	143
THE GHETTO MARRIAGE-BROKER	148
WANDERING JEWISH PREACHERS	153
HEBREW EPIGRAMS	156
HEBREW FABLES	171

HEBREW SATIRE.

HEBREW SATIRISTS.

SINCE the birth of Hebrew literature, many centuries ago, satire has been one of its many characteristics. It is directed against the foibles and follies of the miser, the hypocrite, the profligate, the snob. The dull sermoniser, who puts his congregation to sleep, fares badly, and even the pretty wickednesses of the fair sex do not escape the hawk-eye of the Hebrew satirist. The luxury and extravagance of the "Daughters of Zion" were attacked by no less a person than Isaiah himself; but human nature, especially that of a feminine kind, was too strong even for so eminent a prophet as he was, and there is no reason to suppose that the lady of those days wore one trinket the less in deference to his invective.

There are, in fact, several incidents mentioned here and there in the pages of the Bible, which are decidedly of a satirical nature. Most prominent among them are the two that refer respec-