

**LETTERS AND
DIARIES OF
PHILIPP SAPHIR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649630677

Letters and Diaries of Philipp Saphir by Philipp Saphir

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OF

PHILIPP SAPHIR.

EDITED BY HIS BROTHER.

"To suffer, to endure, to hope, to believe, and thereby to be lawfully happy, yea, right
royally glad—that is our Motto and Watchword."

—Extract of a Letter from Philipp Saphir.

EDINBURGH:
JOHNSTONE AND HUNTER.

M.DCCC.LII.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED BY JOHNSTONE AND HUNTER,
104 HIGH STREET.

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2623
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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE Letters and Diaries of the late Philipp Saphir of Pesth, which his brother has given to the public in these pages, will be found by the reader to be of no ordinary interest and value. The writer of them was a Hungarian Israelite, brought to the knowledge of the gospel of Christ in 1842. From the native energy and power of his mind, combined with devoted godliness, and burning zeal to be useful to others, especially the young, it can scarcely be doubted that, if it had pleased God to grant him a larger measure of health, and to prolong his life, he must have come to occupy a more prominent place in the vineyard of Christ. As it was, his labours and his usefulness, in spite of miserably shattered health, were great, and might well read a humbling lesson to many placed in more favourable circumstances. One cannot fail to be struck with the beautiful interweaving in his brief history of "the

work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father." The two lines from one of his letters, placed on the title-page of this little volume, and penned by him amid intense sufferings within a few months of his death, describe with much truth his character and life:—"To suffer, to endure, to hope, to believe, and thereby to be inwardly happy, yea, right royally glad—that is our motto and watchword."

It may the more engage the interest of the reader to be informed, that Philipp Saphir was one of a respected Jewish family in the city of Pesth, the whole of whom, much about the same time with himself, were brought to embrace the Messiah promised of God to their fathers. The youngest of the family, the editor of these Letters and Diaries, has been for some years past in Scotland prosecuting studies for the Holy Ministry—with what promise of future usefulness, the writer of this note may be permitted to say, will easily appear from the manner in which he has executed the task of preparing this memorial of his beloved brother.

CHAS. J. BROWN.

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LETTERS AND DIARIES, &c.

CHAPTER I.

BIRTH AND EDUCATION.—INUNDATION OF DANUBE.

PHILIPP SAPHIR was born on the 23d July 1823, in Pesth, the capital of Hungary, of Jewish parents. Of his childhood and early youth little is to be said. He attended the Latin gymnasium of his native city, where he prosecuted his studies with unequal diligence; he bestowed more attention upon light literature than upon the regular class-work, and zealously cultivated a taste for drawing, which he possessed in a marked degree.

Although he received a good education at home, the temptations of the world were too strong for him, and he led a careless and wild life. Yet he found no lasting happiness in worldly joys and sins, and at times a strong reaction would take place. Resolutions of improvement were formed; now he turned to the strict observance of the Jewish laws and institutions, at other times he felt attracted by the grandeur of the Romish Church and its outward show of devotion; but these were only tran-