

**THE STATUS OF THE JEWS IN ENGLAND:  
FROM THE TIME OF THE NORMANS, TO THE  
REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA,  
IMPARTIALLY CONSIDERED: COMPRISING  
AUTHENTIC NOTICES, DEDUCED FROM  
HISTORICAL AND LEGAL RECORDS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649154791

The status of the Jews in England: from the time of the Normans, to the reign of Her majesty Queen Victoria, impartially considered: comprising authentic notices, deduced from historical and legal records by Charles Egan

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**CHARLES EGAN**

**THE STATUS OF THE JEWS IN ENGLAND:  
FROM THE TIME OF THE NORMANS, TO THE  
REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA,  
IMPARTIALLY CONSIDERED: COMPRISING  
AUTHENTIC NOTICES, DEDUCED FROM  
HISTORICAL AND LEGAL RECORDS**



7d 25-

THE STATUS  
OF THE  
JEW IN ENGLAND,

*W. Parker*

FROM THE TIME OF THE NORMANS,  
TO THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA,  
IMPARTIALLY CONSIDERED:  
COMPRISING AUTHENTIC NOTICES,  
DEDUCED FROM HISTORICAL AND LEGAL RECORDS;

AND INCLUDING  
A SYNOPSIS, WITH COMMENTS, OF THE DEBATES  
ON  
THE JEWISH DISABILITIES BILL:

BY  
CHARLES EGAN, ESQ.  
OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW,  
LATE FELL. COMM. OF TRIN. HALL, CAMB.

"Since the remainder of that mighty nation, which of old were elected a people peculiar, are now by Him that first chose them dispersed over the face of the earth, and are become the most politic of traders now extant, having by their industry cemented themselves into the principal revenues and traffic of the universe; it might not seem improper to examine how their condition stood of old in this nation, and how the laws of this realm stand in reference to that people at this day."—*De Jure Maritimo et Navali*.  
"A right toleration ought to be extended unto all, since all equally plead conscience, of which God alone is the judge."—*Arcana Imperii Detecta*, Case 14.

LONDON:  
R. HASTINGS, CAREY STREET, LINCOLN'S INN;  
GRANT AND BOLTON, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN;  
AND  
ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK, EDINBURGH.

TO  
THE MOST NOBLE  
THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE,  
LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL,  
K.G. D.C.L. F.R.S.

A Statesman who has conferred inestimable benefits on his Country,  
by the Wisdom of his Counsels, by his eloquent Advocacy of the purest  
principles of Rational Freedom, and by his liberal Encouragement of  
Literature and the Arts :

THIS WORK

IS,

WITH HIS LORDSHIP'S KIND PERMISSION,

MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THE AUTHOR

SERLES' CHAMBERS,  
CAREY STREET,  
LINCOLN'S INN.



## INTRODUCTION.

---

COMMENTATORS on the history of the Jews assert, that a portion of the Jewish people had settled in Britain as early as the first century of the Christian era; that an amicable alliance having existed, in the days of Julius Cæsar, between the Hebrews and Romans, "To aid each other in their wars with all their hearts," the Jewish warriors accompanied the great Roman Captain in his invasion of Britain, and settled here under the Roman banner\*. And, in support of this allegation, it is further stated that "Augustus Cæsar set free, without any redemption money, every man and woman of the Jewish race in all the countries of his dominion; to the east, as far as beyond the Indian Sea; and to the west, as far as beyond the British territory, which is the country of Angleterre, and which is designated England in the *Lingua Franca*†."

---

\* The treaty between the Romans and Jews was graven in tables of brass, and sent by the former to Jerusalem, as a memorial of peace and confederacy between the two great nations; and it is preserved in the *first book of Maccabees*, chap. viii.

† Rabbi D. Ganz's Chronicle, "The Branch of David." And in this country, says Margoliouth, the Jews record the event annually in their calendar in the following words: "Augustus's Edict in favour of the Jews in England. C.Æ.15."



The venerable Bede (*Eccles. Hist.*), Archbishop Ecbright (*Canonical Exceptions*), Ingulphus (*Hist. of Croyl.*), and other early writers, are also cited, to prove that Jews were residing in Britain at the time of the Saxon Heptarchy. A talented legal writer, however, has remarked that, "When the Jews first came into this realm is not certainly related by any of the historians of British or Saxon kings' reigns;" and we may add, that other writers have left us too scanty information on the history of this people, for us to ascertain with accuracy the precise period of their original arrival in England; for while Spelman, Coke, and other commentators, maintain that the settlement of the Jews in Britain dates back to Edward the Confessor's time, Prynne and other writers repudiate that conjecture\*.

It is remarkable, and not a little discreditable to our early historians, that (with the exception of Thomas De Wyke, Canon of St. Osney, A.D. 1263, who was perhaps the best writer amongst the old chroniclers) our historians, more particularly those of earlier date, have done their best on most occasions to denigrate and calumniate the Jewish character.

Indeed, the most zealous literary efforts appear to have been formerly made, to stigmatise the Hebrews as a class of people quite undeserving the protection

---

\* In a modern publication, "The Laws and Ancient Institutions of England," a law is cited, relative to Jews in Edward the Confessor's time, which seems to support Spelman and Coke's opinion. Johnson, however, classes this ordinance amongst "the supposed laws of Edward." (See *Collect. of Eccles. Laws and Canons*, vol. i, MLXIV.)

of the British Sovereign, unworthy of admission within the pale of the British Constitution, and unworthy even of the liberal or equitable consideration of the British people.

The time, however, has at length arrived, when it becomes of importance to consider, whether or not facts sustain the allegations hitherto so generally promulgated against the Jews? And it is hoped that a perusal of the following remarks will prove, that facts do not so sustain the condemnatory statements heretofore advanced against a people, regarding whom it has most properly been asked, "What Nobility can be greater than theirs?—so many Patriarchs, and Prophets, and Kings, do they number among their forefathers; and so many brave men, and men of divine virtue, whose names are recorded in Heaven\*."

---

\* Vide Petrus Cunæus, "*De Republica Hebræorum*," cap. xviii. "It should never be forgotten," says Dr. Adam Clarke, "that the greatest men that ever flourished as kings, judges, magistrates, law-givers, heroes, and poets, were of Jewish extraction; Isaiah was a Jew, so was Paul, and so was Jesus of Nazareth." (*Com. on Isa.* ch. 53.) And another learned English divine, Dr. Launcelot Addison, also observes, "This people, if any under heaven, may boldly glory of their antiquity and nobleness of descent; there being no nation who can prove its pedigree by such clear and authentic heraldry as the Jews; so that all other nations must have recourse to the Jewish records to clear their genealogies and attest their lineage."

