

# **OUR MODERN DEBT TO ISRAEL**

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Our modern debt to Israel by Edward Chauncey Baldwin

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**EDWARD CHAUNCEY BALDWIN**

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DEBT TO ISRAEL**



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BY

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And throned on her hills sits Jerusalem yet,  
But with dust on her forehead, and chains on her feet;  
For the crown of her pride to the mocker hath gone,  
And the holy Shechinah is dark where it shone.

\* \* \* \* \*

Oh, the outward hath gone! but in glory and power,  
The spirit surviveth the things of an hour;  
Unchanged, undecaying, its Pentecost flame  
On the heart's secret altar is burning the same!

—Whittier, "Palestine."





## PREFACE

That the world is at last awaking to a sense of its obligation to Israel and to Israelitish thought there can be no question. The evidence of such an awakening is found in the amazing output during the last decade of books dealing with the literature of Israel.

Yet among all these books, none, so far as the author is aware, has attempted to show what our modern debt is to the three classes that together molded and guided the thought of Israel — the prophets, the priests, and the sages. Who these men were, and what they did for Israel, and, through Israel, for the world at large is still very vaguely understood by the general reader.

To supply this lack of exact knowledge this little book is written. It is not intended for the specialist, but for the layman. Nor does it pretend to be the result of scholarly research. The material of which it is composed is accessible to all who have the time and patience to collect it. The book aims simply to present briefly the results of modern scholarship so far as this scholarship reveals the extent of our modern obligation to ancient Israel. The author's acknowledgments are due to the editors of *The Biblical World* and the *B'nai B'rith News* for their per-

## PREFACE

mission to make use of certain material which has previously appeared in those journals.

Should the book help to clarify some hazy notions, and, incidentally, to substitute for grudging tolerance of a maligned race, a generous respect, the purpose of the author will have been achieved.

Urbana, Illinois,  
September 1, 1913.

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