

**ASPECTS OF JEWISH
LIFE AND THOUGHT (THE
LETTERS OF BENAMMI)**

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Aspects of Jewish life and thought (The letters of Benammi) by Mortimer Epstein

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MORTIMER EPSTEIN

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Wm. T. Deane
Edwin S. Redkey

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(THE LETTERS OF BENAMMI)

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FOREWORD

IN the experience of the writer of the following pages, while many people are greatly interested in the Jews, comparatively few are possessed of a true knowledge of Jewish ideals, the Jewish faith, or Jewish life. The present volume, it is hoped, will throw light on important aspects of these subjects, and will show that Judaism inculcates the purest principles of humanity, that it regards social service as the highest charity, and that to-day as of old it commands "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

At a time when earnest men and women are striving to fashion the conditions of modern life so that they may accord with the best thought, it is useful to direct attention to the part the Jew can play in the process, and to point out, to Jews and Gentiles alike, that, in this no less than in earlier ages, the Jews may contribute much that is valuable for the reconstruction of the world. When all is said, it is not so much in the sphere of material well-being that a change is required; what in the long run is likely to bring about a better world is a moral regeneration of mankind. Here is where the Jew can help; it has always been his *métier* to keep alive in men's consciences one of the fundamental

truths upon which every Great Society is built, to wit, "Not by Power and not by Might, but by My Spirit."

It only remains to add that the following papers formed part of a series of weekly articles contributed during the last two years to the *Jewish Chronicle* under the heading, "The Letters of Benammi."

January, 1922.

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