

## MR. AND MRS. S. A. HARDOON TENDER RECEPTION TO DR. ARIEL BENSON

Dr. Benson On The Jewish Renaissance In Eretz Yisrael

A MESSAGE TO THE JEWS AND ARABS

## MR. AND MRS. HARDOON'S GIFT TO THE HEBREW AND INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

On the 10th ultimo, Dr. ARIEL BENSON was tendered a reception by Mr. and Mrs. S. A. HARDOON at their residence, No. 177 Bubbling Well Road, which was largely attended by Jews and non-Jews. Among those present were:—

Mrs. E. E. J. Abraham, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. J. Abraham, Mr. R. D. Abraham, Mr. Abdallah Bai, Mr. Cho-Mee Chi, Mr. Sewey Djang, Mr. B. N. Ezra, Mrs. Flora Ezra, Mr. and Mrs. N. E. B. Ezra, Dr. O. Fischer, Mr. H. Goldrei, Mr. C. S. Gubbay, Mr. Hayashide, Mr. Aubrey Hillaly, Mrs. A. J. Hayim, Miss Hardeen, Dr. and Mrs. Holper, Mr. E. A. Hillel, Mr. S. M. Joseph, Mrs. E. Jonah, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Joseph, Mr. Singo Joe, Mrs. J. Levy, Mrs. N. S. Levy, Mr. David Levy, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Moses, The Misses Moses, Mr. Lionel Moses, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Nissim, Mr. Sam Perry, Miss M. Perry, Mr. David Raphael, Dr. and Mrs. A. Rosenberg, Dr. Alex. Renner, Mr. and Mrs. E. Mortimer Reid, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sudka, Prof. and Mrs. H. P. Shastri, Mrs. S. Simmons, Mrs. E. Shahmoon, The Misses Shahmoon, Mr. Ezra Shahmoon, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Sokolsky, Miss M. Solomon, Miss Julie Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sopher, Mr. and Mrs. B. U. Schipper, Mr. Arthur Sopher, Mr. Theodore Sopher, Mr. Haim Soloveitchik, Mr. T. T. Shia, Mr. Wu San, Mr. A. R. Savul, Mr. F. Vicejee, Mr. and Mrs. S. Yada.

The guests were received by Mr. and Mrs. HARDOON in their ballroom which was exquisitely decorated for the purpose. No dancing was indulged in but there was enough *esprit de corps* prevailing to create an atmosphere of joy and hilarity. After tea and refreshments had been served, Dr. ARIEL BENSON delivered a powerful address explaining the ideals of his mission to the Orient and the spirit of real brotherhood animating the Jews in their work of reconstruction in Palestine. Dr. TAGORE presided at the meeting and in a few well-chosen words introduced the speaker. The following is the full text of the address delivered by Dr. BENSON:—

MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. AND MRS. HARDOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—I must first of all thank you for the cordial reception you have given me. I am also especially thankful to our host and hostess, for not only giving us this historical opportunity of forming a committee for the promotion of culture in Palestine, but also in helping us in this great cause. Mr. Hardeen is well known for his philanthropic work in the East, regardless of religious distinctions. The Chairman also called me the founder of this Society, of which I am very proud.

### Nationalism And Universalism

To-day is a great fete for me, the same as it was on the happy occasion when I heard the sympathetic declaration on behalf of Zionism by the great leader, Dr. Tagore in the house of Mr. E. S. Kadoorie. My joy will be complete when this Association will fulfil its task, and help us in creating in Palestine the noble synthesis of universalism and nationalism, divinity and humanity.

This burning passion of our seers and prophets who prophesied in a corner of Western Asia is at last being fulfilled.

### Message To Mankind

Who is not expecting to-day the message which should come from any corner of the world saying to mankind, "Wake up and go out of the boundaries of narrow nationalism and come back to this wonderful synthesis!" Who could close his eyes to the twinkling of the stars which alludes with a thousand suggestions the recognition that man is the dwelling place of the divine union through which we can reach the real joy and the eternal music of Beauty! There is a mystical Jewish allegory which says that as long as the Spirit of Israel is in exile, the name and Throne of God are not in their full glory, in fact how could the Divine Glory and Harmony dwell in the world so long as Justice and Freedom are in exile! How could the complete joy and divine music dwell in the Temple of God so long as there is a Nation among many living in painful agony since 2000 years in this world! Can mankind ever reach perfection (I believe in the realisation of this ideal with all my heart) so long as there is imperfection in its midst! How can this aim be fulfilled, which is to reach at the end of days full perfection of virtue, beauty, refinement of our senses, also the ability to overcome the obstacles of life and death the kiss of the Infinite or the meeting with the Eternal One?

### Creators Of Eternal Values

I am happy to see people of Asia gathered here, believers of the Bible, Koran, Upanishad Vedas, Zend-Avesta, Tao Teñ King, who are creators of Eternal Values, believers that the form of Man is but one of the multifarious forms of life in this universe awaiting perfection, the culmination of creation, the happiness of the Creator and creature. So, for this reason, we are here to-night to place the foundation of this organisation for the revival of Jewish culture in Palestine, in order to give back to an oppressed Nation the joy which was taken from them—the joy which underlies the existence of God and man.

### Cause And Progress Of The Zionist Movement

Before I proceed further I wish to say a few words regarding the cause and progress of the Zionist movement, but I must make it as concise as possible owing to lack of time. I call the attention of those who are interested and want to know more about it to the vast literature written on this subject and especially to the history written by our great leader Nahum Sokolow. Since the Roman exile (Israel is now in the end of the 2,000 years of her exile), the Jews never for a moment ceased their longing for the land of their body and soul. In the course of their long tragedy, their nationalism did not wax dim, because what is nationalism if not

their own racial recognition! Where can you find a nation who live up to their racial ideals in foreign lands and who hold tenaciously to their elevating ideals as the Jewish people! Where can you find a Jew (of course, one who deserves this name) who forgets the object and completion of his mission given by God! Does this question not depend only upon the Jew keeping his own racial and noble qualities?

### The Pledge Of The Exiles On The Rivers Of Babylon

In the course of the darkness of our exile, such a Jew never forgot to remember the pledge which his forefathers swore on the rivers of Babylon. "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth." Thus it was this longing which gave him strength in his tragical despair expressed itself since the first day of exile in prayers, songs, lamentations full of, this national and spiritual fire. The hope to give back to the Soul of Israel its dwelling place taken from her by force by enemies did not cease during her exile. It was her only silver star which twinkled and sent its glimpse of light and joy even within the walls of the ghetto. It was this hope which made him forget the watching enemy without and his great fear within him, turning his genius to pure spiritual devotion his only conciliation, resulting in the literature of the Midrash, Talmud, Zohar, Kabbalah and the books of the pious saints. These spiritual gems are now awaiting the master who will unfold their pristine beauty and sanctity to the eyes of the world.

### Realization Of The Messianic Dream

Now Israel's longing began to manifest itself in real action only in the latter part of the 19th Century, not through the medium of diplomats or experts in economy and agriculture, but through young students, dreamers and idealists who came from the lands of the pogroms, to lay the foundation of a Spiritual and material home in the land of their forefathers. These pioneers who bore in their hearts the ideals of the Prophets and in their hands the plough and scythe, transformed the material desert into gardens and vineyards and the moral deserts into tents of old traditions and ideals of the sages of Israel. The real instrument to achieve this end was the Zionist Organization whose founder was Theodore Herzl, of blessed memory. He formed it in the last years of the 19th Century, in order to unite his people who were scattered in the four corners of the world.

### The Twofold Significance Of Zionism

I wish to point out that the aim of Zionism is material as well as spiritual and both are imbedded in the message of the prophets:—

"And I will turn the captivity of my people Israel.

"And they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them,

"And they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof.

"They shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them,

"And I will plant them upon their land,

"And they shall no more be plucked up,

"Out of their land which I have given them,

"Saith the Lord thy God—Amos."

"Behold, I will send you  
 "Elijah the prophet  
 "Before the coming  
 "Of the great and terrible day of the Lord.  
 "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers  
 to the children.  
 "And the heart of the children to their  
 fathers:—Malachi.

To Zionism, Palestine is of double significance, namely, the Spiritual rejuvenation of body and soul. There, Religion and nationalism will reach its true meaning—the reality of life, freedom and joy. Religion and life will go hand in hand, and the spiritual and material ideals will link themselves in their own national grounds in order to find their synthetic union as in ancient days. The rays of their influence will even penetrate into the hearts of the exiles outside Palestine.

#### The Influence Of Palestine On The Exile

The aim of Zionism is not only to bring the Jews to Palestine, but also re-instate Palestine in the heart of humanity. How many Jews were saved from assimilation and came back to the fold through the Trumpet call of this Renaissance? There is a Talmudic legend which relates that were Israel not freed from bondage in Egypt at that psychological moment, they would have passed through the 50 doors of evil and thus their souls would have been lost for ever. Zionism has now come as of old, to save the lamp of Judaism from dying out. The first authoritative centre which will keep the sacred flame of our nation alight, will also send its soothing rays to our brethren in exile and thus save many from annihilation.

#### Admiration For The Pioneers Both Spiritual And Agricultural

I do not know if there are pioneers so pure and idealistic as those who are flocking to Palestine. Go and see the workers, the peasants who are building with the sweat of their brow, and with supreme love in their heart his national home, who with one hand hold their instruments and with the other the book of virtues, philosophy, and spirituality. See in the sunset the homecoming of the labourers after their hard day's work which consists of filling up swamps full of malaria germs, making roads and bridges etc., hear their inspiring conversation, and their songs of joy and pain, of hope and salvation, this music which emanates from souls knowing no limitations. See the schools, teachers, educators, and notice the revival of our poetry, literature and sacred tongue—the language of the prophets and Psalms. I wonder if your hearts will not fill with veneration and admiration for those noble helpers. I wonder if your hearts will not fill with love for the movement, and its work.

#### The Co-operation Of Jew And Their Arab Brothers In The Reconstruction Of The Homeland

Will you not falsify the views of our opponents who are sowing the seeds of hatred? I am sure you will understand our prayers, our sorrows and our historical claims. Is it possible that Judaism who gave three grand religions to the world, who gave the high conception of morals, would now build her home on the destruction of her Arab brothers after testing the bitter dregs of injustice for so many generations? What is the social justice of other nations if not the call of justice and brotherhood the clarion call of the sages and prophets of Israel? Is it possible that the Jewish

nation so strong in its belief of the brotherhood of nations, will cause an injustice to others? Nay, friends, nationalism to us means humanity! It is a fallacy to think that a success of our great scheme could be possible if it is built on the principle of non-humanity. Our ideals are one of free co-operation with our Arab brothers. Our leaders are anxious to work with the Arab in the re-construction of our holy land.

#### Admiration For Moslem Culture

We are all great admirers of Arab culture, their language and literature, and the wonderful Koran, this treasure house of morals and noble Jemocratism of the art, science and philosophy of religion. Respect fills my heart when I think of the Omayyads in Damascus, the glory of the Abasads in Bagdad and the power of the Fatimists in Egypt, the high Mohammedan culture in music, architecture, painting and medicine of Spain, India and Africa. But I cannot help confessing my regret when I say that during 1200 years this genius did not create anything new in Palestine. But I am sincerely convinced that when Israel's culture will be re-established in Palestine, new creations will gush forth from these sources, namely the Jews' and the Arabs'. You can compare the Jewish and Arab nations to an old rare violin awaiting a divine musician such as King David, whose touch will once more produce sublime and tuneful harmonies.

#### The Beginning Of Understanding And Appreciation

We must all be thankful to God that the understanding and appreciation of our brothers began already, and they are now realizing the justice and progress of the Zionist movement, but the work will bear fruit only when both nations will heartily co-operate with each other. I am confident that our Arab brothers who are living in Palestine will not suffer in our national home but on the contrary will derive great benefit there, so that the day will come when an Arab visiting a neighbouring country will say to his co-religionists:—"Behold! We are living with the Jews in a true brotherly way and that we have much in common with them."

#### The Help Of Jew And Gentile

For this reason we require help and sympathy from outside also. Up to now, we are getting the help of the Jews to a certain extent. The Jews are bringing their contributions but not actually their sacrifices! With regard to the non-Jewish nations, Zionism from its very beginning has had a large number of non-Jewish friends, thinkers, writers and statesmen. The English nation, who has great veneration for the Book and the people of the Book was the first to show her sympathy to our ideal many years before the occupation of Palestine. On two occasions England offered to give large tracts of land as an autonomous centre, in her own empire. One was in Wad-el Arish, the other in Uganda. Other nations also expressed great sympathy for the Jewish cause among them being Japan, Siam, and China. I am very proud to see your decision to gather here to help to put the foundation of this Association (in which are Chinese, Mohammedans, Parsees, Japanese and Hindoos). On the dawn of our revival in Palestine we require your moral help and sympathy in order to construct the temple of faith and kindle the eternal lamp of justice, peace and brotherhood. How can we spread this spiritual light if it is

dim? In the dawn of our life and culture in Palestine we require your moral help in order to give to the soul of Israel an honourable place among the nations. How long will our soul remain without a dwelling house? How long will she celebrate her feast on the threshold of others without light, colour, form, music and songs of her own? On the dawn of our revival in Palestine, we require your sympathy and your co-operation which will enable us to overcome all obstacles that had been instigated by our misguided opponents in the past. It is desirable that the world will come to an understanding and appreciation of our work among the nations, for where there is understanding and appreciation there is faith, confidence and goodwill for all. The Jews and the Arabs are tied by racial bonds which will be strengthened day by day through the light of true understanding. Bring your stone for the construction of the National Pyramid of renewed culture in Palestine. Make it your aim to help in rebuilding the nest of justice and brotherhood. May you get inspiration to aid us in our huge task in bringing a part of our nation to its cradle, the nation which marked its individual stamp upon the culture of other nations in order to express its universal ideals through the national channel. Help us to unite in Palestine our old ideals with those brought with us from the exile—from East and West, South and North—to a synthesis so that our past and present may spell a glorious future.

#### The Hebrew University On Mt. Scopus As A Meeting Place For East And West

Thus the only opportunity will be the university which is going to be opened soon on Mt. Scopus, in Jerusalem. During the exile, the Jews served only as intermediaries for other cultures. Now, this spiritual center will be able to present new truths and thus create a meeting place for the West and East. At present the West is giving to the East her maximum but the East gave

#### FRETFUL BABIES

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Fretfulness in young children is usually due to stomach trouble. The use of soothing syrups fails to correct the trouble and is really harmful. It is not necessary because Baby's Own Tablets will sweeten the stomach, allay the resulting fever and bring natural rest and comfort. Read this American mother's evidence:—

"My little girl, four months old, cried all day long," says Mrs. Oscar Campbell, of No. 141 Chestnut Street, Central Falls, R. L., "and was restless at night. She was troubled with indigestion and sour stomach and nothing seemed to help her. Finally a friend recommended Baby's Own Tablets and the very first I gave her made her rest easy. She seldom cries now and is better in every way. I advise all mothers to keep this valuable remedy in the house."

Parents can give Baby's Own Tablets to their little ones with perfect confidence because they are guaranteed absolutely pure and free from harmful drugs. Pleasant to taste and easily administered the children like them. They quickly reduce fever, regulate the bowels, expel worms, allay teething pains, quiet the nerves and promote health-giving sleep. Your chemist sells them, or post free, 60 cents the vial, from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., 60 Kiangse Road, Shanghai.

to the West in the past much more than it is receiving now. How could it have been possible for SHAKESPEARE, KANT, LEECARDO, VINCI, BEETHOVEN, MICHEL ANGELO, and RAFAEL, to reach such dazzling heights, where they received inspirations, saw visions and heard such divine melodies? Was not the Bible the fountain of their inspirations from which they drank deeply? The East is now waking up from its sleep and is ready to give in the future its twofold contribution. The university which was founded by Dr. TAGORE in India will gather the scattered rays of Asia and send their soothing light to brighten the face of the world, but the spiritual centre in Palestine will be the meeting-ground of the East and the West. The Jew coming from the West to Palestine will bring with him costly presents of science, art and philosophy which will renew through the Oriental atmosphere, and the silence of sunrise and sunset his old ideals and create new eternal values. Thus will West and East meet face to face. Palestine must regain its old spiritual footing for her own sake and that of humanity and divinity. All the obstacles which stood in the way of this union will be washed aside, and then the world will learn a new song, a song of harmony and pure joy—the principle of The One (Ehad). Does not the Upanishad teach us:—"Only those of tranquil minds, and none else, can attain abiding joy, by realizing within their Soul the Being who manifests one essence in a multiplicity of forms."

#### Tagore's Declaration For Zionism As A Pathway For The Association

Dr. Tagore in his speech in the house of Mr. Kadoorie said:—"I have deep sympathy for that great movement of yours in the West of Asia in the creative activities of Zionism in Palestine, for it represents a great truth—the marvellous stir of awakened life to discover its home land. Yes, the whole mind of Asia is hungering for its spiritual home."

I hope these words will be a pathway leading to a noble end. I can assure you—but why shall I assure you? Read what happened to Harbona and Coresh, and why their names are written in our sacred books. Thus your name and your work will also be written in the history of our nation. How much consolation will your work give to sufferers of our nation who are anxious to come to Zion? How many tears will be transformed through your work to tears of joy and happiness? In conclusion let me say that when the foundation of the second temple was laid, the prophet Zechariah said:—"Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts," and also when the foundation of a Spiritual Centre was laid in Palestine, Dr. WEIZMANN said:—"Not with guns and not with stones and not Roman legions but with sciences and with art and with social justice, will we build our national home." We also in laying the foundation of our Association should say:—"Not with politics, or diplomacy will we reach our goal but with our love of peace, truth and unity which are the real relationship of mankind."

#### The Principle Of The Divine Unity

May the spirit of the prophets, the Koran, the Upanishad, the Vedas, the Zend Avesta, the Tao Teh King, dwell upon your work so that it will be a work of love and peace leading on to complete joy and harmony which is the aim of the Eternal One. (Cheers).

#### Appreciation

Prof. H. P. SHASTRI said that he had listened with great interest to the address of Dr. BENSON who put in a nutshell the ideals of the Jews in their present aim to rebuild their ancient Homeland, with which he had always expressed warm sympathy.

#### Vote Of Thanks

Mr. N. E. B. EZRA said that the object of their meeting was to form a Committee of Jews and non-Jews to work for the promotion of Jewish Culture in Palestine and collect books for the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He was pleased to announce that Mr. and Mrs. S. A. HARDOON had donated a complete set of Chinese classics consisting of 240 volumes to the Hebrew University. He understood that a similar gift was made to Dr. TAGORE for his University by their host and hostess, when he was in Shanghai a few months ago. That kind of work should engage the attention of the Committee from whom they expected some measure of success in the coming years. In proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. BENSON for his address, Mr. EZRA said:—

"Ever since his return to Shanghai from America about six weeks ago, Dr. BENSON had mooted the idea of forming a Committee for the promotion of cultural work in Palestine and he did a lot of spade work before he succeeded in organizing the meeting to-night. Dr. BENSON came to Shanghai in the interests of Keren Hayesod. He came, he saw and he conquered. True, he did not conquer all hearts—there are some who have given him mere lip service which he hopes to convert into cash some day—but, nevertheless, it is conceded that he has discharged with success an onerous task and made friends everywhere. He pleaded vigorously for the Palestine Foundation Fund and inspired many who were previously lukewarm to look upon with pride the present work of reconstruction that is being done in Palestine. Dr. BENSON departs from Shanghai on a new mission, dedicated to a cause which will bring him and Shanghai Jewry honour and credit."

After some discussion the following were appointed to serve on the Committee:—

Dr. Y. TONGU, Prof. H. P. SHASTRI, Messrs. A. R. SAVUL, CHO-MEE CHI, S. A. HARDOON, N. E. B. EZRA and Dr. F. REISS. With a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. HARDOON for their hospitality the meeting came to a close.

#### NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

By N. E. B. EZRA

That was a cosmopolitan gathering at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. HARDOON on the 10th ultimo. Jews, Mohammedans, Hindus, Christians, Parsees, Chinese and Japanese vied with each other in rendering homage to the Zionist envoy and listening to his farewell message. The object of the meeting was two-fold. First to form a Committee of Jews and non-Jews to promote the Jewish Culture in Palestine, and second to collect books for the University in Jerusalem. The birth of such an Association was welcomed by the representatives of seven denominations, which, *per se*, is a symbol of union and brotherhood and should animate men of all creeds in their efforts to promote those ideals for which the prophets of the human race strove and strive to this day. It is conceded that the ethical precepts of all true religions are identical and need no emphasis. We respect the ideals which animate all true believers of various creeds so long as they

strive to harmonize the soul of man with the soul of the universe. FROUDE, the historian, never uttered anything truer when he said, "Opinions alter, manners change, creeds rise and fall, but the moral law is written on the tablets of eternity." The prophets of the human race spoke the Truth as they conceived it, utterly regardless of the consequences. They believed, as someone tersely put it, "to fit or suit everybody, is a splendid maxim for a shoemaker or a tailor," not for the prophets of mankind.

The example set by Mr. and Mrs. HARDOON in donating books to the Jewish and Indian Universities was fittingly announced at the meeting. That kind of work should come within the category of the newly formed Association and stimulate every one to further the interests of culture everywhere. Jews are by no means narrow in their efforts to revive their own Culture in their Homeland. We glory all the more in the achievements of other races. As Dr. BENSON has said, "We are all great admirers of Arab culture, their language and literature, and the wonderful Koran, this treasure house of morals and noble democratism of the art, science and philosophy of religion. Respect fills my heart when I think of the Omayyads in Damascus, the glory of the Abasads in Bagdad and the power of the Fatimists in Egypt, the high Arabic culture in music, architecture, painting and medicine of Spain, India and Africa." One of the audience, a Hindu, who heard such lofty sentiments uttered by the Zionist delegate, said to the present writer that he was infinitely pleased to learn that the Jews were animated with a sincere desire to bridge the gulf between their neighbours and if such broad declarations of views were widely disseminated in the Moslem world there could be no gain-saying that the day of friction and misunderstandings between the Jews and the Arabs would be a thing of the past. It is to be hoped that Dr. BENSON's message will be given the publicity it deserves, as there is a substratum of truth in the statement made by my Hindu friend that the ideals which animate world Jewry in their efforts to re-build their Fatherland are not based upon the "principle of non-humanity," to quote Dr. BENSON again.

#### RHEUMATISM'S RETURN

Sound Advice to Sufferers.

Always at this time of year one hears the familiar grumble about the climate from victims of rheumatism who are more or less disabled by stiffness and cruel pains in the muscles and joints. Rheumatism is one of the penalties of living in this country; also lumbago, in which case the pains settle in the muscles of the back and loins. But although changeable weather sets rheumatism raging through the system, the trouble in most cases arises in the blood, which has become impure. What is needed is a change of blood.

The most valuable help for men and women afflicted by rheumatism is derived from Dr. Williams' pink pills. These pills make new, good blood, that refreshes pain-laden, jaded muscles, aching, stiff joints and flagging nerves, and puts ease and power into weak, tortured backs. The refreshing influence is proved by the promptness with which these pills banish blood troubles, indigestion, nervousness and headaches; and the aches and pains of rheumatism vanish when the blood is renewed.

Begin Dr. Williams' pink pills now: they will strengthen you to withstand weather changes without fearing illness. Of chemists, or direct from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., 60 Kiangs Road, Shanghai, \$1.50 per bottle, \$8.00 for 6 bottles, post free.