

## CHIEF RABBI BENSION OUZIEL ON THE OUTLOOK OF SEPHARDIC JEWRY

In a letter addressed to the Shanghai Zionist Association, Chief Rabbi Ouziel, of Tel Aviv, writes as follows:—

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour dated 25th December last, to which I have to reply as follows:

I am greatly interested in the Jewish Secondary School, which you are going to establish in the Colony "IR HAGANIM." This twofold enterprise, which the China Zionist Organization undertook, deserves appreciation by all friends of the complete revival of the entire Jewry in general and of the Sephardi Jews in particular. It is already a long time since I aspired towards this goal and I long to see its actual realization. The bitter "Galuth" dispersed the Sephardi Communities in various places, where a lethargic sleep fell upon them tearing them far away from all the Jewish Communities in Europe, this having been the essential cause of the great spiritual degeneration of this portion of Jewry. There may come a time, which may be not very far off but quite near, when in all the large Communities in the East there will be no cantors, no teachers nor Rabbis to lead these scattered sons of the Diaspora, in the light of the great traditions of Judaism. And when I look deeply into the near future with all its true colours, a shudder is passing through all my limbs and a deep question is animating my soul: "Will this Jewry live when deprived of its soul? Who will breathe the spirit of Judaism into these groups of the Diaspora and who will form the eternal emblem of this Judaism? And who will acquaint the young generation with our glorious past? If not the spiritual shepherds who will be penetrated with the traditional and religious spirit of Judaism and at the same time enlightened in all modern sciences."

Moreover, the Jewish Communities in all the places of the Diaspora are now becoming united into Societies and groups, are purchasing lands and are settling in great masses in our Holy Land, while the soul of our Sephardi brethren, being in the majority of cases poor, is thirsting for Zion and their eyes are lifted up towards it, but, owing to the lack of a basis upon the soil and finding no response to the aspiration of their soul they remain nailed to their places, where they are sitting as upon burning coals and suffering

protracted agonies, but are helpless to extract themselves from the Galuth. With immense pleasure I received the joyful message with regard to the valuable initiative taken by China Jewry; this proves to me how great is the intellectual vigour of Judaism, that even every small portion thereof is perfectly awake and active, ready to perform mighty deeds, if only touched by the Heavenly spirit. And when this spirit touches it, it awakes with exaltation for regeneration, for great enterprises and deeds that aim at the revival of the nation and the rebuilding of the country in the widest and fullest sense of the term.

DEAR BRETHREN! I possess not such appropriate expressions as might convey to you the feelings of appreciation that I entertain for you and for your highly valuable enterprises. With deep and great love I submit hereby my thanks to your honourable President Mr. E. S. KADOORIE for his exemplary devotion to this work in conjunction with my beloved and dear friend Dr. A. BENSION. I, as well as all the Sephardi Jews and Communities of the East, are heart and soul with you, entreating you to continue your zealous work. Speed on to carry into realization in a tangible form this enterprise, the sooner the better, and may the blessing of the Almighty and His succour accompany you on all your ways so that your eyes may behold speedily the realization of your ideal and the upbuilding of our country, the redemption of our nation and the exaltation of our Holy Torah; be strong and courageous!

With all feelings of respect and greetings,

Believe me, My dear Mr. EZRA,

Yours faithfully,

BENSION M. OUZIEL.

TEL. AVIV (Land of Israel)  
16th Shevat, 5685.

### KING SOLOMON'S PRAYER.

When King Solomon had dedicated the Temple in Jerusalem, he uttered a prayer which to this day is rare in the history of mankind. That fervent orison may well be repeated to-day at the dedication of the University. The Wise King said:—

"Moreover concerning a stranger that is not of thy people Israel but cometh out of a far country for thy name's sake. Hear thou in Heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all for which the stranger calleth to Thee."

## KEREN HAYESOD CAMPAIGN IN TIEN-TSIN

TOTAL AMOUNT EXPECTED TO  
REACH \$4,000

### ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE

From a Correspondent.

TIEN-TSIN, 25th March, 1925.

The festival of Hanuccah was becomingly celebrated here by the small Jewish community. A reception was held by the Tientsin committee of the Keren Hayesod on the 10th instant, to which practically all the members were invited. The guest of the evening was Dr. HEINRICH NECHELES, of Peking, who has recently taken a position at the Medical Union Hospital in the Capital. Dr. NECHELES has visited Palestine on his way to China and was, therefore, able to give an excellent impression of his stay in the Jewish Homeland. He referred with enthusiasm to the good work that had been done by Keren Hayesod and gave a vivid description of the Haluzim who are accomplishing wonders in turning a waste land into a veritable paradise. He made an impassionate

appeal for the Fund and all those present were visibly moved by his earnestness and eloquence.

Others who followed him were Mr. L. GERSHEVICH (Chairman of the Committee) Mr. A. G. FOX (Vice Chairman) and Mr. MORRIS GROSS (Hon. Secretary) who referred to the need of uniting together and supporting the Foundation Fund.

As a result, I am happy to say, over \$2,500.—was promised, which was subsequently augmented to \$3,300.—It is hoped that before very long the total amount would reach \$4,000.—

[Written for ISRAEL'S MESSENGER]

## CURSED ARE THE SLANDERERS

Avoid intermeddling with the affairs of others. This is a common fault. A number of people seldom meet but they begin discussing the affairs of some one who is absent. This is not only uncharitable but positively unjust. It is equivalent to trying a case in the absence of the person implicated. Even in the criminal code a prisoner is presumed to be innocent until he is found guilty. Society, however, is less just and passes judgment without hearing the defence. Depend upon it, as a certain rule, that the people who unite with you in discussing the affairs of others will proceed to scandalize you in your absence. It is tolerated in Society only because almost everyone has an unhappy inclination to commit it. The slander of some people is as great a recommendation as the praise of others.

When they charge us falsely we may laugh. "To speak no slander nor listen to it".

Purim, or the Feast of Lots, is celebrated on the 14th and 15th of Adar in commemoration of the defea of HAMAN'S wicked plans. HAMAN was Chief Minister to AHAVERUS, King of Persia. Through malice and revenge he designed to destroy all the Israelites of the vast Empire of Persia. This cruel despot intended to gratify his vengeance by a general massacre. He had cast lots in order to discover the day most favourable to his plans; the enemy had already triumphantly exclaimed: "I pursue, I overtake; I divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them! I draw my sword and destroy them with my hand"; but the Almighty frustrated the wicked devices of the persecutor and caused him to fall with the very snare which he had prepared for the innocent children—they were saved, and rejoiced.

Through whom did He accomplish this great and wonderful deliverance? He chose a feeble woman for his messenger, for an instrument of the redemption of his people, that the world might learn, how great He is also in little things, how His power works also in the weak; how that which seems powerless, turns triumphantly in His hands, that which is fragile and humble, strong and sublime; that we also may know and take to heart, that, however lowly and feeble a man may be, he is, nevertheless, commissioned by Him to do and accomplish the good unto the benefit and blessing of his fellow-men.

H. A.

### NOTICE

THE NEXT ISSUE OF "ISRAEL'S MESSENGER" WILL APPEAR ON THE 8th May 1925. Correspondents are kindly requested to send in their contributions not later than the 28th instant, or earlier if possible