

cepted a call to the ministry of Congregation B'nai Jeshuron, then in Elm Street.

Regular sermons in English, such as he delivered, were a novelty in New York City. Isaac Leeser, of Philadelphia, being the only other Rabbi in the country who preached in English. So little was known at that time of Judaism by the masses of the people outside of the faith that Christians of various denominations came to hear him and were much impressed by his earnestness and his eloquent presentation of the truth from his standpoint. It was the entering wedge and led to a better understanding between Jew and Gentile. His efforts were not limited to his own synagogue, but extended over the entire community while his services were frequently enlisted to dedicate synagogues in different parts of the country, English-speaking rabbis being then few in number.

He was one of the founders of the Jews' Hospital (later Mt. Sinai Hospital), and served as Director and First Vice-President of that institution. At an early day in its history he announced its platform: while maintained by Jews, the suffering were to be relieved without distinction of creed. He was one of the founders of the Board of Delegates of American Israelites in 1859, and Treasurer of the Palestine Society from its organization in 1854 until his death. He was deeply interested in Palestine, and for many years was the American correspondent of Sir Moses Montefiore upon matters connected with the Holy Land.

In 1857 he established the Jewish Messenger, which opened to the outside world the teachings of Judaism, which led to open discussion among his own people and tended greatly to their advancement by bringing them into closer touch with one another and with those of different faiths. He carried on this publication for twenty years, and did much to advance the cause of Judaism as well as to advance the noble cause of charity and education in which his people were so earnestly engaged. In 1845 the Congregation of Shaaray Tifla was founded with Mr. Isaacs as its first minister. Services were first held in Franklin Street, near Broadway, and in 1846 a new synagogue was erected on Wooster Street, near Prince. As the residential portion of the city extended upward and the lower part given

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REV. SAMUEL MYER ISAACS, *the principal founder and most important factor in the system of Hebrew Free Schools in New York*, was a man of great influence and of personal magnetism, and easily secured the co-operation of others in any work he undertook himself. When it was deemed advisable to adopt some plan to counteract the efforts of local missionaries who were seeking to proselyte the children of Hebrew parents, his advice and counsel was sought and his suggestions followed. He helped to organize the schools and to interest the parents in the work, and taught and preached himself until the work was fully established. He was one of the pioneers in charitable work among the Hebrews of New York City, and was the principal adviser and co-worker with Sampson Simson in founding the Jews' Hospital, now Mount Sinai.

Rev. Samuel Myer Isaacs was a native of Leeuwarden, Holland, where he was born January 4, 1804; died in New York City, May 19, 1878, son of a banker who, being greatly impoverished by the French war, emigrated to London with his family in 1814. For some years the son was at the head of a charitable and educational institution there until 1839, when he came to New York and ac-

up entirely to business purposes, the Congregation moved to the corner of Broadway and Thirty-sixth Street, and finally to Forty-fourth Street, where they erected one of the finest places of worship in the city, which gave them a commanding influence in the community. Mr. Isaacs, the great leader in the teachings of orthodox Judaism, to which he steadfastly adhered, sought to stem the popular current of liberalism which was drawing his people from the teaching and traditions of their fathers. He was a man of great talent and force of character, was logical, honest and fair in his utterances, and while emphatic and sometimes even blunt, he was tender and sympathetic. His ability, sincerity and kindness of manner made him widely esteemed and his own congregation were united to him by the strongest ties of affection. At the Lincoln memorial service in New York, April, 1865, he was chosen to represent the Jewish community. In 1839 he married Jane, daughter of Jacob Symmons, and had issue eight children. One, Rebecca Deborah, died in 1887; the others were Myer S., Jacob S., Trustee of the Hebrew Sanitarium and Purim Association; Isaac S., President Congregation Shaaray Tifla and Honorary Secretary United Hebrew Charities; Abram S. Isaacs, Minister of the Hebrew Congregation, Pakrow, N. J.; Miriam Isaacs, Sara Isaacs, and Rachel, wife of V. E. Abecassis. Mr. Isaacs died in May, 1878.