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LOVE AND SMOKE.

Gone are the happy summer days;
And now, just over the distant hills,
Hang like a screen a purple haze,
And color all the woodland hills
The trees may don their royal dress,
But, ah! no kingly robe is mine!
Of my two loves I loved one less,
And now that love has ceased to shine.
Clouds hid that sun of love from me—
Tobacco clouds were they in fact—
No maid was ever fair as she,
And no one ever more exact.
I loved her, yet loved my cigar;
To wed no smoker did she vow,
I had to choose—to cast afar
Love or my smoke—I'm smoking now!
—Flavel Scott Mines in Life.

JEWISH DIGNITARIES.

The following letter by the late Henry Ward Beecher and addressed to President Grover Cleveland has lately made the round through many Eastern newspapers and has also been published by some of our local journals.

It is dated "Brooklyn, Feb. 12th, 1887," and reads as follows:

"Grover Cleveland: Dear Mr. President—Some of our best citizens are solicitous for the appointment of Oscar S. Strauss as Minister to Turkey. Of his fitness there is general consent and he is personally and in attainment excellent, but I am interested in another quality—the fact that he is a Hebrew. The bitter prejudice against the Jews which obtains in many parts of Europe ought not to receive any countenance in America. It is because he is a Jew that I would urge his appointment as a fit recognition of this remarkable people, who are becoming large contributors to American prosperity and whose intelligence, morality and large liberality in all public measures for the welfare of society deserve and should receive from the hands of our government such recognition. Is it not also a duty to set forth in this quick but effectual method the genius of the American government which has under its fostering care people of all civilized nations and which treats them without regard to civil, religious or race peculiarities as common citizens? We send Danes to Denmark and Germans to Germany. We reject no man because he is a Frenchman. Why should we not make a crowning testimony to the genius of our people by sending a Hebrew to Turkey? The ignorance

and superstition of mediæval Europe may account for the prejudice of the dark age, but how a Christian in our day can turn from a Jew I cannot imagine. Christianity itself sucked at the bosom of Judaism, our roots are in the Old Testament, we are Jews ourselves gone to blossom and fruit. Christianity is Judaism in evolution, and it would seem strange for its seed to turn against the stalk of which it was grown.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.
Brooklyn, Feb. 12, 1887."

While the communication bespeaks a nobility worthy of the great writer, and while it has accomplished its desired effect as far as Oscar S. Strauss, the late United States minister to Turkey, is concerned, yet it was not this letter that opened the door for the progress and high standing of the Hebrews in this country of freedom; for in looking up the records of the various offices within the gift of the government and people of the United States we find that from 1812 a great many offices have been creditably filled by members of the Jewish race.

One of the most distinguished members of Congress of former days was Henry M. Phillips, a Hebrew lawyer of Philadelphia, who served in the Thirty-fifth Congress. He figured conspicuously in the debates, especially during the discussion of the admission of Kansas as a State of the Union. Though frequently urged to stand as a candidate for the mayoralty of Philadelphia, he always declined to do so.

Another able Congressman was Lewis C. Levin, of the first district of Philadelphia, who was elected for three successive terms to the national House of Representatives. He served with great credit, and while holding the chairmanship of the committee on naval affairs, he was instrumental in the building of the dry dock in Philadelphia. Mr. Levin was one of the founders of the native American party. He was a Charlestonian by birth, and while residing in Mississippi fought a duel with Alfred Bynum, Jefferson Davis acting as Mr. Levin's second.

In Louisiana Henry Michael Hyams was elected lieutenant-governor some years ago. He was also a Charlestonian by birth and reached New Orleans in company with Teulah P. Benjamin. Mr. Benjamin's record is too well known to

call for extended observation, but one fact of peculiar interest has escaped the attention of most of his biographers and possesses some fascination for students of American Hebrew history. Benjamin is said to have developed such remarkable talent as a youth in Charlestown as to attract the attention of one Moses E. Lopez, a member of the Hebrew Orphan Society, who, from his own means, bestowed a classical education upon his protege.

Franklin T. Moses, the late distinguished chief justice of South Carolina, was the son of Myer Moses, an officer in the war of 1812, and in 1841 was elected to the State Senate over two competitors, and re-elected for thirty years. Emanuel B. Hart was elected to Congress in 1851 and subsequently appointed surveyor of the port. David Levy Yulee, of Florida, was United States Senator from Florida for many years prior to the civil war. His wife was a daughter of Governor Wickliffe, of Kentucky.

By the appointment of President Pierce, Isaac Phillips was made general appraiser of the port of New York, which position he occupied for fifteen years. William Lovin-stein has been a member of the Virginia legislature for the last twenty years. Raphael T. Moses has been a conspicuous figure in Georgia politics for the past forty years, and has served in the legislature of that State, where he attracted attention as a legislator and orator of uncommon ability. Samuel Well has been for many years a prominent member of the Georgia legislature. Dr. Herman Bendell, of Albany, was appointed by President Grant as superintendent of Indian affairs and afterwards consul to Elsinore, Denmark. Philip Sloss was for many years State Senator in Indiana, as was also the late Bernard Sweitzer. Isaac Rusnosky, of Boston, has served in the Massachusetts legislature, and Henry Mok is now serving in the Ohio senate. In Oregon Louis Fleishner and Edward Hirsh have both occupied the office of State treasurer.

Marcus Otterbourg was the first American Hebrew to occupy the high office of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, in which capacity he represented this