

JOTTINGS.

— At the Greenacre, **Maine**, School of Comparative Religion, July 30th to Aug. 31st, Rev. Dr. Jos. Silverman will give three lectures on the Talmud, its origin, history, and theology.

— "The JEWISH MESSENGER, of New York, has been very happy in its utterances in favor of Dreyfus. That journal has made a gallant fight for justice and right, and no doubt its weight has been felt." So states the San Francisco *Jewish Progress*.

— *Jewish Review*: "Our young rabbis make a great mistake by continually choosing for the subject of their sermons themes entirely foreign to Judaism. Our people need more religious lectures than are given at present, and if they are presented in an attractive form they will be much more welcome than many of the themes that are discoursed by the ministers at present."

— The Harpers have in preparation and will soon publish the English translation of the letters written by Captain Alfred Dreyfus to his wife. These letters cover the first four years of his imprisonment. The collection is entitled in French, "Les Lettres d'un Innocent." The book will contain an introduction and be illustrated with a portrait.

— How Paris changes! On July 9th a performance was given at the Théâtre Forain of a three-act play entitled "The Innocent Martyr," based on the Dreyfus case. The first act dealt with "The Accusation," the second with "The Degradation," and the third represented "Innocence Established; the Return Home." The part of *Dreyfus* was played by a sergeant of infantry of the name of Michel. The audience made no manifestations of disapproval.

— In Smith's "Rejected Addresses" the imitation of Byron is unexcelled:

"For what is Hamlet, but a hare in March?
And what is Brutus, but a croaking owl?
And what is Rolla? Cupid steep'd in starch,
Orlando's helmet in Augustine's cowl.
Shakespeare, how true thine adage, 'Fair is
foul!'

To him whose soul is with fruition fraught,
The song of Braham is an Irish howl.

Thinking is but an idle waste of thought,
And naught is everything, and everything is
naught."

— Gen. Longstreet tells in *The Independent* a story of Gen. Winfield Scott after Virginia seceded from the Union. Scott was a Virginian, and to indulge in a mint julep every day about 12 o'clock was one of his confirmed habits. Now, the mint julep is a characteristic Virginia drink. Each day, when Scott took it, it stirred his Virginia blood, and the effect upon his loyalty was such that he always had to run to the State Department, so it is said, and renew his oath of allegiance.

— A recent proposal to erect a monument to Dickens in London has been met by this quotation from his will: "I conjure my friends on no account to make me the subject of any monument, memorial, or testimonial."

whatever. I rest my claims to the remembrance of my country upon my published works, and to the remembrance of my friends upon their experience of me in addition thereto—Charles Dickens.” The members of the novelist’s family have steadily discouraged any attempt to disregard his injunction.

— On May 31st the gross funded debt of Greater New York was \$344,686,922.02. The sinking fund was \$105,299,731.09, leaving the net funded debt \$239,387,190.93. The outstanding revenue bonds amounted to \$33,374,950.88, making the debt \$272,762,141.81. There are also outstanding bonds issued previous to consolidation which have been approved as to legality, but which are not registered on the department books, to the amount of \$151,764.35. The amount of the bonds issued previous to consolidation, but not yet approved as legal, is \$982,341.04.

— According to M. I. Holl Schooling, of Brussels, there is a very easy way of calculating the age to which a human being may reasonably expect to live, but it is only applicable if his present age lies between twelve and eighty-six years. The method is really an old one, and was originally discovered by the mathematician Demoivre, who in 1865 emigrated from France to England and became a member of the Royal Society. The rule is this: Subtract your present age from eighty-six, divide the remainder by two, and the result will give the number of years which you may expect to live.

— Prof. Axenfeld, of Perugia, has discovered that three-fifths of all men of distinction are first-born children; the other two-fifths are either second or third children, or else the youngest of very large families. Among the first he points out Luther, Dante, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci, Confucius, Heine, Schopenhauer, Goethe, Ariosto, Mohammed, Shelley, Erasmus, Milton, Byron, Molière, Carlyle, Rossini, Talleyrand, Buffon; among the last Loyola and Franklin, both thirteenth children; Schubert a fourteenth child and Volta a seventh child. The professor thinks this arises from physiological reasons and a law of nature.

— While Max Nordau thinks that the only cure for prejudice against the Jew is for the Jew to assimilate with other races, the *Christian Work* is of the opinion that “a quicker and easier remedy than that is for the people afflicted with this kind of prejudice to read over reports, as we have, before the United Hebrew Charities of this city. These reports show through this single agency more than six thousand poor people were helped in the month of May. One of the ‘peculiarities’ of the Jews is that their domestic life is nearer the ideal than that of any other race, and another is that they take better care of their poor and dependent people. If these are failings, they are surely of the kind that lean wholly over to virtue’s side.”