

THE MOSAIC SYSTEM IN ITS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

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The mosaic system in its fundamental principles by Louis Salomon

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LOUIS SALOMON

**THE MOSAIC SYSTEM
IN ITS FUNDAMENTAL
PRINCIPLES**

THE
MOSAIC SYSTEM
IN ITS
FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES.

BY THE

REV. DR. LOUIS SALOMON,

MINISTER OF THE CONGREGATION RODEF SHALOM, AT PHILADELPHIA.

הנו סתים מסתף ויצא לדורף כלי !

"Take away the dross from the silver and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer."—*Proverbs xxv. 4.*

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5601.

DEDICATION.

TO THE
PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS
OF THE
CONGREGATION RODEF SHALOM,
IN PHILADELPHIA.

IMPRESSED with the conviction, that it has always been your noble zeal to improve the condition of our youths; it is my heartfelt desire to express to you my gratitude publicly, and to avow by these lines, how well I appreciate your unceasing perseverance and energy, manifested by the assistance which you have so kindly lent me in the achievement of the useful projects that have been lately realized with such admirable success.

Thus, you will permit me, Gentlemen, to dedicate

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this small volume to you, cherishing the hope that it may answer the end for which it was undertaken.

If so, I shall be happy and proud to say, that I have given my mite to promote the welfare of my brethren in faith; and with a thankful heart to the Almighty, I shall feel satisfied with the assistance you have given me in my efforts.

With due regard,

Yours most respectfully,

L. SALOMON.

Philadelphia, August, 1841.

PREFACE OF THE TRANSLATOR.

I WAS desired about two months since, by the Rev. Dr. Salomon, to translate the present work from the German manuscript. In undertaking the task, I did not depend much on my own competency as a translator, but on the assistance of a kind friend who is an American scholar. Though I am certainly tolerably familiar with the English language, I am far from believing that my knowledge of it is so perfect, as to make it advantageous for me to appear before the public as a translator. The knowledge which I have of the German, joined with the perfect mastery which my friend (whose name I am not permitted to mention) has of the English, not to speak of his own familiarity with the German, persuaded me that the translation would not lose by a comparison with many which are acknowledged to be at least good ones. If he who is disposed to censure should find here and there something which might be better, it is hoped he will consider, that it was *necessary* to finish the whole work amid a press of other business, in the short space of eight weeks, and that it

is easy to find fault with every translation, though it may be tolerably difficult to execute one.

It is due to the kindness of the Rev. ISAAC LEESER* that these printed sheets have been carefully and properly corrected. This saved me a considerable trouble and a great loss of time, and I consider it my duty to return to him my best thanks for his disinterested labour.

May then the work be judged indulgently, and the meritorious labours of Dr. Salomon be crowned with that success, and the pains which he has taken receive that reward, which they so richly deserve.

GUSTAVUS REMAK.

Philadelphia, August, 1841.

* The translator having mentioned my name as having assisted in editing this work, it seems necessary for me to say, that I honestly endeavoured to do justice to the work of the learned author; but that owing to my want of practice in poetical writing, or perhaps because I have no poetical ear, I have not been able to revise the poetry scattered through the book in a manner satisfactory to myself. As, however, the merits of the work do not depend upon this part so much as upon the general excellent arrangement and fidelity to the Scriptures, and our accepted mode of interpretation, I trust that Dr. Salomon will reap a plentiful harvest of public approbation for his well-intended and pious labours.

I. L.

PREFACE OF THE AUTHOR.

As the glorious sun, though he blesses all, does not shed his beneficent beams over all the inhabitants of the earth at once; as he permits some to enjoy their midnight slumbers, while to others he dispenses the light and heat of noon, as he, in quitting the horizon of one portion of men, invites them to rest, whilst by his dawning light he announces to others the new commencing day; so does the blissful light of true enlightenment illumine, warm, and fructify only a portion of mankind at the same time. *Individuality, character, inclination, circumstances, habit and opinion*, form together a whole, in which man, so to say, moves in an element or an atmosphere of his own, which alone he finds convenient and agreeable. Legislation phlogisticates this atmosphere, or deprives it of its phlogiston with iron hand, and mixes it with nourishing oxygen or deadly azote, according as it in its principles regards the earth, in reference to its intelligent occupants, as the daughter-land of the great heavenly state, and causes the enactment of laws which tend best to connect this life with the spiritual existence hereafter; or as it separates our two states of existence by a procedure resulting from selfishness in the enactment of laws.

Nowhere has this mighty influence of the laws of a

country on the progress of civilization been more displayed in living examples, than in this happy America. If we limit our view to it as the nursery of so many blessed seeds, which evidently are nourished by the blessing of Heaven, we shall everywhere discover these seeds as expanding in blossoms, exhibited in the progress to perfection produced by education; and they promise many noble fruits, if God will but cause them to advance to maturity, by the expanding light of truth. Under the conviction that whatever comes short of the contemplated improvement of the people, can effect but little good, public schools have been every where instituted with paternal zeal, yet with the tenderest regard for the freedom of conscience. Here systematic education is already ennobling the rising generation. All hurtful results are carefully prevented by the tried and benevolent assistance of those to whom the superintendence and instruction are entrusted. Hence I shall the more rejoice, if I have succeeded to contribute my mite in this great undertaking. It is my intention, by means of these pages, to present to my companions in faith, as well as I am able, a general outline, according to which our youths of both sexes* should receive instruction, from their infancy till the age of ripening reason, when they are to make a decided and public profession of their faith, and stand prepared for the holy solemnities of confirmation.

For if the peculiarity of human nature consists in its continually advancing onward to what is divine; if by

* God, in his requirements of mankind, has made no difference between the sexes.—*Compare Deuteronomy xxxi. 12.*