THE JEWS OF EASTERN EUROPE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649745258

The Jews of eastern Europe by J. H. Adeney

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J. H. ADENEY

THE JEWS OF EASTERN EUROPE



JEWISH STUDIES

Edited by A. LUKYN WILLIAMS, D.D.

THE JEWS OF EASTERN EUROPE

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BY THE REV.

J. H. ADENEY, M.A.

MISSIONARY TO THE JEWS IN ROUMANIA

WITH FOUR ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON
CENTRAL BOARD OF MISSIONS
AND
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE
NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN CO.
1921

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PREFACE BY THE EDITOR

No modern nation has taken more interest in the Jews than the English-speaking peoples, none has tried to deal more fairly with them. Yet it cannot be pretended that we English know much about their post-Biblical history, practices, and beliefs, much less that we have studied these in relation to Christianity past and present.

The aim of this series is to do something towards supplying this want. It will endeavour to describe Jews as they have been and as they are, to state and explain the efforts of Christians in past centuries to win them, and the methods used, and both to set out and to weigh their chief doctrines.

Thus gradually but surely a collection of handbooks will be formed, which Jews and Christians alike may use, and each learn to understand better the religion of the other. Naturally the books will be Christian, and because they are Christian will try both to represent Christianity in its proper spirit, and to exhibit it as the supreme truth.

A. LUKYN WILLIAMS.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

This little book has been written in the intervals of a very busy missionary life in a peculiarly difficult year. This must be its apology for its many imperfections. My most grateful thanks are due to my friend and fellow missionary. Rev. L. Zeckhausen, for his great kindness in reading the proofs and drawing up the index, and to him and the Editor for many most useful suggestions.

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THE JEWS OF EASTERN EUROPE

INTRODUCTION

The train which was speeding us from Berlin to Bucarest in those pre-war days had come to a standstill in the early hours of the morning at Czernowitz in Bukovina. Alongside of us was a train which had come in from the East. The carriages were full of Jews, the Jews of Eastern Europe of the orthodox type, clothed in long kaftans-men with long boards and ringlets at the side of their faces. There they stood with their faces turned towards Jerusalem. with praying shawl and phylactery, swaying to and fro as they said their prayers in the full view of everyone. We had reached the home of the Jew-American Jews, English, French, German, or what not; the majority of them are only removed by a generation or two from the home of their fathers in Eastern Europe. There is their real home; there are the surroundings which have left their indelible trace upon the Jew's very features, and moulded his character and made him what he is to-day.

The total Jewish population of the world is reckoned at 13,500,000. Of these 10,000,000 live in Europe, and of them no less than 8,500,000 in