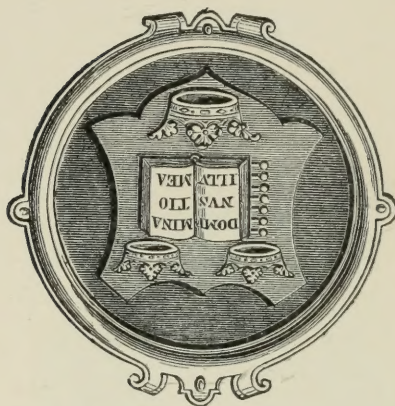


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1887

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*MEDIAEVAL JEWISH CHRONICLES
AND CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES*

SEMITIC SERIES, VOL. I.—PART IV

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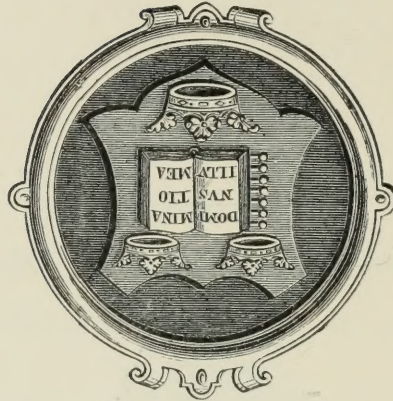
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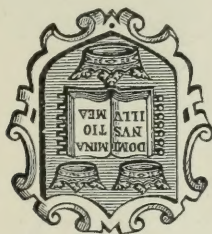
CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES

AND

MEDIAEVAL JEWISH CHRONICLES

AMEN CORNER, E.C.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS WAREHOUSE



HENRY FROWDE


London

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DEDICATED TO
THE HISTORIAN OF THE JEWS,
PROFESSOR DR. HEINRICH GRAETZ,
WITH THE EDITOR'S BEST WISHES,
ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY,
31ST OF OCTOBER, 1887
(22ND OF MARHESHWAN, 5648).



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PREFACE.

THE Old Testament literature proves sufficiently that the Israelites from the earliest times had a wish to keep records of their history. Indeed, nearly half the Hebrew Scripture consists of the historical part, and how large would not that part have been if the Book of the Wars of *Shoh*¹, the Book *hay-Yashar*², the Chronicles of King David³, the Book of the Acts of Solomon⁴, the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel and Judah⁵, the *Midrash* of the Prophet Iddo⁶, and other similar books not mentioned in the Bible had not been lost! In Ezra and Nehemiah we find the history of the return of the exiles; from the legendary account in the Talmud⁷ of the interview between Alexander the Great and Simon the High Priest, we are allowed to conclude that some other records of this epoch were handed down, whilst the books of the Maccabees describe the revolt and the victories of the Asmoneans,—of which a part seems to have existed in Hebrew⁸ or Aramaic as late as the tenth century⁸. The 'Scroll of Antiochus'⁹ in an early form, may have composed a portion of it. Of the time of Herod and later on there were in existence genealogical scrolls¹⁰, which contained

¹ Numbers xxi. 14. ² Joshua x. 13; 2 Samuel i. 18. ³ 1 Chron. xxvii. 24.

⁴ 1 Kings xi. 41. ⁵ In 2 Kings and Chronicles. ⁶ 2 Chron. xiii. 22.

⁷ *Bab. Talmud*, Yoma, fol. 69^a. See Rapoport, *E. M.*, fol. 66 seqq.

⁸ Zunz, *G. V.*, p. 124, note c, *גזלת חמשתא* or *גזלת חמשה*.

⁹ *גזלת אנטוכוס*, edited by the late H. Filipowski in Aramaic, Hebrew, and English, London, 1851. The present Aramaic version is of a later date.

¹⁰ *גזלת חמשה* in the Mishnah and the Talmud. See Zunz, *G. V.*, p. 128, notes g and h. We find also the title of *גזלת חמשה*, which, according to some critics, is a different treatise from the former. See Benjacob's *O. S.*, p. 216, No. 113.

historical data of the reigning dynasty, of the high priests, and most likely of the chiefs of the schools. The 'Scroll of Fasting,' which we possess with many additions, is also a record of important data during the second Temple¹. I may also mention the two historians Justus of Tiberias² and Josephus Flavius (the latter intended to write his book in Hebrew, that is, in the dialect of the spoken language of the Jews at that time³), in order to show that the taste for writing history was continued amongst the Jews after the Bible period.

When by the destruction of the second Temple the Jews lost their political independence, and when their history began to be that of a series of vexations and persecutions, there was no room for a continuous history of events. The revolt of Bar-Cozeba (Bar-Cochebas) did not find a historian, for he was not considered by all the Jews as the Messiah who was expected to rebuild Jerusalem and restore the Jewish nation as a political body. Only a few data of that time are found in the Talmud⁴, the greater part of them being legendary. But even then we find a historico-chronological book, attributed to R. José (Joseph) ben Haleftha, with the title of 'Order of the World'⁵; beginning with the creation and finishing with Bar-Cozeba. This is at all events the first chronicle composed after the destruction of the second Temple. The Mishnah tractate *Aboth*⁶, stripped of the ethical sayings, was originally a record of the chain of tradition of the Law from Moses down to R. Jehudah, the compiler of the Mishnah, or of the Thanaim (doctors of the Mishnah); which perhaps was continued

¹ מלחמת בית המקדש השני. See Graetz, *G. d. J.* (3rd ed.), iii. note 1, and J. Derenbourg, *Essai*, p. 439 seqq.

² Josephus, *Vita*, i. 65.

³ *Wars*, preface, i.

⁴ Graetz, *G. d. J.* (2nd ed.), iv. p. 148 seqq.; J. Derenbourg, *Essai*, p. 402 seqq. ⁵ (אנר) דלוי 77D, printed several times. *Ed. princeps*, Constantinople, 5277

A. M. = 1517 A. D. Mr. S. Schechter is preparing a critical edition of it. See for another treatise with the same title, No. VI and p. xxi.

⁶ Best edition, with an English translation and excellent notes, by Dr. C. Taylor, Cambridge, 1877.

for the succession of the doctors of the Talmud (*Amoraim*) in the 'Book of Adam', mentioned in the Talmud. It is likely that the author of the 'Order of the Thanaim and Amoraim,' composed probably in the year 887 A. D., based his list of the Rabbis on the previous ones contained in Aboth and the Book of Adam. This list remained the foundation of those which I shall have to mention later, contained in introductions to various casuistical works, where the respective authors added the names of the Rabbis of their country up to their time.³ Such are: the *Saburra*, successors of the Amoraim, whose teachings are incorporated in the Babylonian Talmud; their successors in the Babylonian schools after the close of the Talmud, the Geonim; and finally the Rabbanim (Rabbins), the followers of the Geonim. Amongst the Geonim literary and perhaps also biographical chronicles of their time were written. We have extracts from a lost book of the kind by Nathan ben Isaac, the Babylonian (956 A. D.)⁴; and R. Sherira, in a letter (980 A. D.) of which I am going to speak, refers to writings of the same nature.⁵

But before treating of this letter, I ought to mention a chronicle in which many data are historical, although written with the aim of showing that the chief of the captivity, Bostenai and his successors, are

¹ Zunz, *G. V.*, p. 128, note *z*; *תורת משה* (see p. 25). The *תורת משה* mentioned in the Zohar, is a fictitious book.

² *תורת משה* (דברי ר' משה), usually attributed to the French Rabbi Joseph Tob Elem (bon fils, lived in the eleventh century), most likely for the reason that it was found in one of his works. On the literature concerning this subject, see Benjaçob's *O. S.*, p. 414, No. 186. There is to be added for the same from a MS. in the British Museum (see p. xxi) in the periodical *תורת משה* (see p. xi). There is, however, still room for a new critical edition from MSS. See below, p. xxi.

³ See p. xvii.

⁴ Juhasin (ed. pr.), quire xxii. 4^b. See Zunz, *Gesammelte Schriften* (Berlin, 1875), i. p. 159, No. 29.

⁵ See p. 24 of this edition.

not descended from David. It was composed in the eighth century, or perhaps even as late as the beginning of the ninth century, under the title of the 'Small Order of the World'¹ (compared with that of R. José, which is styled the *Large*); it begins with Adam, and ends with the eighty-ninth generation after Adam, viz. fifty generations from Adam to Jehoiachin, and thirty-nine to Mar Sutra II (chief of the exiles about 470 A. D.). Finally eight generations of the descendants of David after 520 A. D.²

To the last two Geonim, R. Sherira and R. Haya (or Hai), Jacob ben Nissim of Kairowân addressed a question concerning the composition of the Mishnah, the Talmud, the Thosiftha, the Sifrâ, and the Sifrê, and chiefly whether the Mishnah was orally transmitted to the doctors of the Talmud or if it was written down by the compiler himself. An advanced question for such an early period! It is curious that according to one version (for we shall see that there are two versions and an epitome of Sherira's letter) Judah the Saint had written down the Mishnah for his own use and that of his immediate followers, and according to another there was no written text of the Mishnah at such an early period³.

It is generally believed that whenever we have two versions of an early halakhic or agadic book, the one is derived from the Spanish-Eastern schools, and the other from the French schools. Such is the case with the book of the 'Great Halakhoth' of Simeon of סמיון⁴, with the Aboth of R. Nathan⁵, perhaps also with the Midrash *Tanhuma-*

¹ סדר דברי חיים, first edition, Mantua, 1514. A critical edition may be soon expected by Herr J. Lazarus, of the Breslau Rabbinical school.

² See Zunz, *G. V.*, p. 138 seqq., and Graetz, *G. d. J.*, v. (2nd ed.), note 1 (p. 375 seqq.).

³ See Halberstam in *K. L.*, x. p. 7 seqq.

⁴ Perhaps Kayyâr in Mesopotamia; at all events not Cairo (סמיון), which is a misspelling by the copyists), which did not exist in the ninth century, when the סמיון were compiled. See *Revue*, t. xv. p. 135.

⁵ See the preface of Mr. Schechter's excellent edition (Vienna, 1887).

Yelamdennu, the Midrash *Hashkem-Vehizhir*¹, and the small Talmudic treatise with the title *Derekh Erez rabbah*². The two versions of Sherira's letter are similarly ascribed to these two schools, and represent the Spanish text and the French text, or the text made use of by Eastern and Spanish Rabbis, and another quoted by French authorities. The latter school does not admit a Mishnah written by its compiler. It is not very difficult to decide which of the two texts is the genuine and untampered with. Not only from the greater consistency of the Aramaic dialect in the Spanish text, a dialect which, as we know from the Responsa of the Geonim, they used in their writing, may it be concluded that this composition is the genuine one, but also from the fact that books, letters, and Responsa coming from the East reached Spain and Italy before they came to France and Germany; and indeed the earliest authorities in Spain, as far as we possess their writings, rely upon the text which is given as the Spanish text³ and designated by I. in my edition. It is based upon the *editio princeps*⁴ (marked E.), the Bodleian MS.⁵ (marked O.), and the MS. formerly in possession of my friend S. J. Halberstam of Bielitz (Austrian Silesia)⁶, who kindly communicated to me the variations which he had marked from this MS. in the margin of his copy of the *editio princeps* (marked H.). Passages marked with [] are only to be found in I.; with < > only in O. or in E. For the French composition, which is marked in the text by (), and in the notes by II., I made use of all the editions,

¹ Comp. *Revue*, t. xiv. p. 107 seqq.

² Printed in all editions of the Babylonian Talmud. Herr M. Goldberg, of the Breslau Rabbinical school, is preparing a new critical edition of it.

³ Halberstam in *K. L.*, x. p. 10.

⁴ In the *Idem*, quire xxix. 2, Constantinople, 1566. See add. notes, p. 199.

⁵ Catalogue, 1886, No. 2521, 2.

⁶ Now in possession of Herr A. Epstein at Vienna (see p. xiii, note 7), described in R. Nathan Coronel's preface to his *D'varejeh Nivon* (Wien, 1864) as written

5269 A.M.=1509 A.D.

excluding special biographical and bibliographical works. 3. Records of persecutions and martyrologies of general or special character.

The first of the complete chronicles is the 'Book of Tradition' by Abraham ben David hal-Levi of Toledo, composed in the year 1161, beginning with the creation and following on to the time of its composition. It has been often printed. The first edition is that of Mantua 1514¹, of which I have made use for the present text, together with the following MSS.: 1. Three MSS. in the Bodleian Library²; 2. The Paris MS.³; 3. The Parma MS.⁴; 4. The Jewish College MS.⁵; 5. The MS. belonging to the Rev. Chief Rabbi Dr. N. Adler⁶; and another in the possession of Herr A. Epstein of Vienna⁷. Although many of the variations are of little or no value, I have given the most important for completeness' sake, as well as later additions from some of the MSS.⁸ It is found that in general the Mantua edition was printed from a good manuscript. I have omitted the Messianic interpretation of Zechariah xi. 7, which does not strictly belong to the book, and is not to be found in all the MSS. Abraham ben David also wrote: 1. A history

¹ הלכות (77D in A.) 77D (also 77D 777), Ed. in the notes. By inadvertence Benjacob, O. S. a. v. 77D, mentions a first edition of Constantinople, 1517. He also gives wrongly for the Mantua edition the date 777 for 777.

² a. No. 2521, 1 (see the Catalogue . . . 1886), O. in the notes; b. Hebrew, E. 9. Spanish Rabb. char., sixteenth century?, incomplete, it ends with the 777 777 777.

³ (p. 81, l. 14), o. in the notes; c. E. 8 (see p. xiv, note 4), in the notes ω. Both MSS. were ceded to the Bodleian Library by Dr. Harkavy. They are rather carelessly copied. I have taken no notice of the Bodl. MS. 914, 2, and the Florence MS. (Plut. i, vii. Catal., fol., p. 5; 8vo, p. 20), which both end with the Saburai.

⁴ See p. x, note 3 (in the notes p.). ⁵ See p. x, note 4 (in the notes P.).

⁶ See the Catalogue, J. C. . . . 1886, No. 28, 12 (in the notes L.).

⁷ See *Revue*, t. x. p. 100 (in the notes A.).

⁸ See p. ix, note 6 (in the notes E.). The owner was kind enough to send me a collation of it.

⁹ No notice is taken of 1 conjunctive in the figures; of 72 and 722 and other minor variations. () means superfluous, mostly to be found in A. and o. In many cases it was not considered necessary to give which MS. has the variation given in the notes. See also additional notes, pp. 190 and 199.

of Rome from its foundation to the king Reccardus of Spain, collected from Arabic and Spanish sources. 2. The history of the Jews during the second Temple, mostly based on Yossipon¹. Neither of these, however, has any historical value. Abraham's chronicle was supplemented down to the year 1525 by a certain Abraham ben Solomon of Tortuël² in Spain, an eye-witness of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1495. This chronicle is to be found in a MS. acquired by my friend Dr. Harkavy of St. Petersburg during his last visit to the East³, and which he kindly ceded to the Bodleian Library⁴. Abraham has almost copied for the period up to the year 1467 A. D. the chronicle of which I am going to speak.

Joseph ben Zaddiq of Arevalo in Spain finished his ritual book *Zekher Zaddiq* with a chapter containing a chronicle from the creation to the year 1467 A. D., which I produce from the unique MS. in the Bodleian Library⁵. It is probable that Joseph and Abraham Zakkuth made use of one and the same chronicle, which both continued up to their time, otherwise we shall have to assume that Abraham plagiarised Joseph of Arevalo, which is scarcely admissible in the case of an author so eminent and original.

Abraham Zakkuth ben Samuel, an astronomer by profession, composed

¹ See pp. xii and xx.

² See Don Fidel Fita in the *Boletín de la Real Academia de Historia*, t. ix. (fasc. 4,

April, 1867), p. 245.

³ See p. xiii. note 2.

⁴ E. 8. Span. Rabb. char. in neglected form, and in bad ink, end of sixteenth or even beginning of the seventeenth century, not very correctly copied.

⁵ No. 2367 of the Catalogue . . . 1886. There is another MS. of Joseph's work in the British Museum, Add. 19785, but this chapter is missing. The heading of the chapter is to be found in the table of contents at the beginning of the MSS. A third is mentioned by the late E. Carmoly (*Revue Orientale*, Bruxelles, 1842, t. ii. p. 112) from a catalogue at Constantinople (on vellum, 308 pp. in 4to, not identical with one of the two mentioned). The MS. mentioned by Judah Azulai (דודן ידן'ר, at end of David ben Zimra's Responsa, t. v, Livorno, 1810) is identical with the Bodleian MS.

history, finished in the year 1672¹. These extracts will be found in No. V. They will be useful for the history of the Jews in the East. The writer is well acquainted with Egypt, his native country².

I come now to the literary chronicles of the Middle Ages, some of which, however, include historical data. I have already mentioned³ the chronicles concerning the doctors of the Mishnah, the Talmud, the Geonic period, to which we may add the famous Moses Maimonides (in the introductions to his Arabic commentary on the Mishnah, and to his work called *Mishneh Torah*), and the introductions to the Talmud (methodology) by various authors. It is chiefly in the introductions to the casuistical works of some Provençal Rabbis that we find the chain of tradition given up to their time. These are, as far as our knowledge goes, the following: (1) Menahem Meiri of Perpignan, in his commentary on the tractate Abot, beginning with Moses and extending to the year 1287⁴. (2) David of Estella in Provence, who lived about 1320, in the introduction to one of his casuistical works⁵. (3) Isaac de Lates (of Provence), in the introduction to a casuistical work composed in 1372⁶. (4) Menahem ben Zerah of Navarra, in the introduction to his *Zedah lad-Derekh*⁷, 1374. (5) Samuel Algazi composed a chronological compendium, based chiefly on Zakkuth⁸, beginning with Adam, ending with the burning of the Talmud in Italy, 1553⁹.

¹ MS. in the Bodleian Library, No. 2410. ² See p. 198. ³ See p. vii.

⁴ *מנחת מנח*, Salonica, 1821, and reprinted in *מנחת מנח*, ed. by S. Stern, Wien, 1854. See also the *Histoire littéraire de la France*, t. xxvii. p. 528 seqq.

⁵ Introduction to *מד מ'ק*, printed in the *Revue*, t. ix. p. 219 seqq.

⁶ Edited by Dr. H. Gross in Berliner's *Magazin*, 1878, Hebrew texts, p. 54 seqq., from the Bodleian MS., No. 1298. Re-edited with notes by S. Buber, Jaroslaw, 1885. Additions and corrections, from a MS. in Baron Günzburg's library, in the *Revue*, t. ix. p. 60.

⁷ A first edition, Ferrara, 1554.

⁸ *ד'ת' מ'ל'מ'*, Venice, 1600, according to Dr. Steinschneider's catalogue Bodl., col. 2403. The copy of Algazi's book in the Bodleian Library is incomplete; it has only the last page of the chronicle.

(6) Gedaliah ibn Yahya at Constantinople composed his treatise, 'the Chain of Tradition,' about 1589¹. Finally, (7) David Conforte of Savelonica wrote in 1677-1683 on learning in the East and the South², and (8) Jehiel Heilprin, Rabbi of Minsk in Poland, composed a lengthy treatise on the Chronology of the Doctors of the Talmud, about 1728³. Naturally the authors of these treatises copied one another, but they are valuable to the historian for the additions of their own time, and for various readings, since we do not possess autograph copies of the earlier chronological treatises.

Of special treatises on persecutions, the earliest are the accounts of the Crusades, which consist (a) of narratives, such as those by an anonymous author and by Eliezer ben Nathan on the first Crusades, by Eleazar of Worms and by Ephraim of Bonn on the second⁴; (b) of the so-called 'memorial books,' in which names of martyrs and towns which suffered are enumerated⁵. It is probable that such books existed in all important communities in the north of France and on the Rhine, for use in the synagogue on those occasions when prayers for the dead were included in a special prayer⁶. We find such documents at a later period and on later persecutions in many German and Polish communities, to the publication of which special attention has been given of late⁷. General treatises on persecutions and calamities were composed (1) by Profet Duran of Perpignan (1497), only known from quotations⁸; (2) by Jehudah ibn Verga of Sevilla, completed by his relative Solomon

¹ *חברת הקהל*, first edition, Venice, 1587.

² *קשר הדורות*, edited with notes (2nd ed.) by Dr. D. Cassel, Berlin, 1846.

³ *דברי הדורות*, first edition, Carlsruhe, 1768, 1769. Improved edition, Warsaw, 1878, 1882.

⁴ Partly edited. A new critical edition may be soon expected from the

'Historische Commission für Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland.'

⁵ Compare Dr. L. Löwenstein's essay on *Memorbücher* in the *Zeitschrift*

für die Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland (Braunschweig, 1887), vol. i.

⁶ Called *חברת הדורות* and *חברת הדורות*. Comp. *Review*, t. iv. p. 3 seqq.

⁷ See Dr. Löwenstein's *op. cit.* (note 5).

⁸ See Graetz, *G. d. J.*, viii, at end, note 1.

and by his son Joseph in the year 1554¹; (3) by Joseph Kohen of Avignon, whom we have already mentioned², in the year 1575, continued by an anonymous writer down to the year 1605³.

Small notes or extracts of historical and chronological data, autobiographies, histories of special localities, notes on local persecutions and elegies on those who suffered in them are too numerous to be given here⁴. My object now is the enumeration of chronicles only which are written in the Hebrew idioms.

The greater part of the texts was already in type when the Bodleian Library acquired the MS. numbered 18 in Rabbi R. N. Rabinowitz's sale catalogue, where the brief description given of the MS. is in general correct. Besides some apocryphal treatises and Midrashim (some of them already printed), and Hebrew translations of the apocryphal books of Susanna and Judith, of the history of Alexander the Great (agree-

¹ גבט יהודה, best edition by the late Dr. M. Wiener, Hannover, 1855, text, and the German translation with notes, *ibidem*, 1856.

² See p. xvi.

³ פקע דבנה, Hebrew text, edited by the late Dr. M. Letteris, Wien, 1852. German translation with copious notes by the late Dr. M. Wiener, Leipzig, 1858. French translation by M. Julien Sée, Paris, 1881. Joseph Kohen himself made several copies of his books. Thus of his geographical work, כדרי נבולתו דבני, the MS. 129 in Rabinowitz's catalogue (now in the Library of the Alliance Israélite Universelle in Paris), is the ninth edition, written 5328 A. M. = 1568 A. D. The first issue of his פקע דבנה was not 1563 (as stated in the preface to the editions and translations mentioned above), but 1560 (Rabinowitz, No. 128, who has כדרי = 1562, now in the Library of the Alliance); it ends with the words מה היה לו (ed. p. 125). So does the Bodleian copy (No. 2559), with the addition beginning כדרי נבולתו (ed. p. 176). This first issue has many better readings than the printed text, which I hope to give at another opportunity. I shall correct another mis-statement concerning our author. It is said (M. Sée's preface, p. v) that he translated into Hebrew Joseph Alguadez's medical work in Spanish with the title of 'Secrets of Medicine.' The author was not Joseph Alguadez, but Meir (see catalogue, Turin, p. 125, and Dr. Steinschneider in *Magazin*, x. p. 166).

⁴ See Dr. Steinschneider's *Jewish Literature* (London, 1857), §§ 10 and 19, as well as his catalogue of the Bodleian printed books for bibliographical information.

ing mostly with the MS. of Modena¹), this curious collection includes the *Vosippon*² (agreeing mostly with Sebastian Münster's readings), two chronicles belonging to the first class of my division, the account of the first and second crusades (from which I believe that contained in all existing MSS., except the Strasbourg MS., was copied)³, and some other treatises. The work was compiled by a certain Eleazar ben Asher hal-Levy, not later than the year 1325⁴, under the title of *ספר הזכרון* (in the preface written *הזכרון*). The *Vosippon* is broken up into parts, such as the genealogical table of Gen. x, the history of the Macca-bees, of Herod, of Agrippa, of the destruction of the second Temple, etc., together with additions taken from Josephus⁵, by Jerahmeel ben Solomon or *הירמיהו*. There is also a Hebrew translation of the Aramaic portion of Daniel by him (and the variations on the margins throughout the MS. presuppose the existence of an earlier MS.). The unusual name of Jerahmeel reminds us of the names of Jiram of Magdiel and Meir Adrieli in the anonymous commentary on Chronicles⁶.

The translation of Daniel by Jerahmeel was evidently made for a country where the Jews were unacquainted with the Aramaic dialect, which seems to point to Southern Italy. We know that in the tenth century the Jews in the Magreb neglected the reading of the Targum,

¹ See M. Israel Lévi's preface to *הזכרון* in *Sammelband*, ii. p. xv (1886).

² See p. xii.

³ Joseph Kohlen in his *Emeq hab-Bakhd* (see p. xix) made use of this MS. or

a copy of it.

⁴ This from the calendar which begins with the 26th cycle, and from the entry of the birth of his son in the year 1325 A. D.

⁵ *הזכרון* (marg. on fol. 153 Ital. cursive) *הזכרון* (fol. 20); from a Latin translation? See pp. 170, 174, and 190 (Notes B.).

⁶ *Ein Commentar zur Chronik aus dem 10ten Jahrhundert*, edited by Raphael Kircheim (Frankfurt am Main, 1875), p. v. The copyist of the Turin MS. six (catalogue, p. 102) is called Samuel son of Jerahmeel has-Sofer, and that of the Paris MS. 1197 is Jerahmeel ben Samuel. We find Jehudah ben Jerahmeel in a German prayer-book of the fifteenth century (catalogue . . . 1886, No. 1025, col. 224). Amongst Polish Jews Jerahmeel is still in use. Compare also the § beginning with *הזכרון* (p. 174) with that in the commentary on Chronicles, p. 56.

which they were exhorted not to do by Judah ben Qoreish¹. Jerahmeel

therefore most probably lived in Southern Italy, and if the chronicle No. VII was compiled by him, about 1040-50. At that time the Rabbis

turned their attention to profane literature, both apocryphal and historical. R. Moses had-Darshan of Narbonne quotes the Aramaic text of the story of Bel and the Dragon in his *Midrash Genesis Major*². Jerahmeel

is most likely the translator of the apocryphal works found in the newly-acquired manuscript. Perhaps he will throw some light on the *epitomizer*

of Josephus, when his additions to Yossipon are published. At the beginning of the MS. there are to be found (by another hand) some poems by Jerahmeel, which are identical with those in the Bodleian

MS. 2079, 9. In his commentary on them in the latter MS., he mentions R. Samuel [ben Meir], as well as Rashi, without the formula of "ר". If

the two Jerahmeels are identical, the date of the writer of the additions to the *Yossipon* would be 1100-1150. Anyhow the texts of this MS. must have been known to Rhenish and Northern French Rabbis at an early date;

they probably came from Italy, which was the channel for the passage of all the books which made their way from the East to Germany and France. The chronicles from this MS. are to be found in Nos. VI and VII⁴.

No. VIII is another chronicle of the first class of my division, which I reprint from the *Shomer Ziyon*⁵ after a collation with the unique MS. in the British Museum, Arundell 51.

No. IX is a fragment of a chronology from the exile of Babylon to the fourth year of the Emperor Nicephoros of Constantinople, extracted from the MS. in the British Museum, Add. 14763, fol. 4^b. The author of it is most likely the copyist Solomon ben Moses of Viterbo, in the year 5033 A. M. = 1273⁶.

No. X contains (1) a fragment of chronological chapters by Elisha ben Abraham ben Benvenisti, called Crescas, to be found at the end of

¹ See *Epistola*, pp. 1-3. ² See *Tobit*, p. xviii seqq. ³ See p. 198. ⁴ Fl. 220 to 227 and 218^b. The latter seems to be epitomised from the earlier than the chronicle of Abraham ben David (p. xii). ⁵ See p. xii, note 1. ⁶ See Dr. Friedländer's preface to the *Guide*, iii. p. xiii.

his copy of a Bible at Damascus (1772 and 1773), which was finished the tenth of Kislew of the year 5143 A.M.=1382. This fragment, although containing but little that is new, may, however, prove useful for fixing dates given in the other chronicles. For this fragment, as well as for other notes, I am indebted to my friend Dr. A. Harkavy.

(2) Additional notes, addenda and corrigenda.

I intended at first to give a *Corpus Chronicorum Judaeorum*, but I found that this is at present impossible, as such a publication would require several volumes. Besides, for the greater part of the chronicles, I should have had to give mere reprints of texts for which I had no manuscripts at my disposal. Other chronicles are in preparation by several scholars², and it would have been unjust to trespass upon their labours. I have therefore selected the first two chronicles, although already existing in print, on account of my being able to use for them a great number of MSS., perhaps all at present known; Nos. II. B and VII are extracted from a periodical as scarce as a MS.; while the remainder contain documents not yet published. Should I find that the public interested in this kind of publication show their sense of the value of such a *Corpus*, I shall be glad to give a second selection of chronicles at present scattered throughout MSS. and periodicals and introductions to works on casuistry, provided the Delegates of the University Press agree to such a continuation.

I express my best thanks to my friends Dr. Friedländer and Mr. Schechter in London, MM. Barbier de Meynard (membre de l'Institut), Joseph Halévy and Isidore Loeb in Paris, Professors M. de Goeje in Leyden, and D. Kaufmann at Budapest, and Herr S. J. Halberstam, for their help, as well as to the excellent Oriental reader of the Clarendon Press, Mr. J. C. Pembrey, who never spares time and trouble to assist authors and editors.

OXFORD:
October, 1887.

A. N.

¹ See p. 119, l. 25.

² See p. vi. note 5; p. viii. note 1.

BOOKS QUOTED IN AN ABRIDGED FORM.

ARUKH.
 1172 (Targum-Talmudico-Midrascshver-
 bale et reale Lexicon. Auctore Nathane
 filio Jechielis). First edition, before
 1480; last edition, by Dr. A. Kohut, 8 to
 172. Five vols. 4to, Vienna, 1878-1885.
 BENJACOB, O. S.
 Ozar ha-Sepharim, Thesaurus librorum
 Hebraeorum, tam impressorum quam
 manu scriptorum. Auctore I. A. Benjacob.
 8vo, Wilna, 1880.
 CATALOGUE, BODL.
 Catalogus Librorum Hebraeorum in
 Bibliotheca Bodliana, jussu curatorum di-
 gessit et notis instruxit M. Steinschneider.
 4to, Berolini, 1852-1860.
 CATALOGUE . . . 1886.
 Catalogue of the Hebrew Manuscripts
 in the Bodleian Library and in the College
 Libraries, etc., compiled by Ad. Neubauer.
 4to, Oxford, 1866 (the numbers quoted
 refer to this catalogue).
 CATALOGUE, FLORENCE.
 Bibliothecae Mediceo-Laurentianae Ca-
 talogus. Ab Antonio Maria Bisconio . . .
 digestus atque editus, t. i. Florentiae, fol.,
 1752; 8vo, 1757.
 CATALOGUE, J. C., 1886.
 Catalogue of the Hebrew MSS. in the
 Jews' College, London, compiled by Ad.
 Neubauer. 8vo, Oxford, 1886.
 CATALOGUE, TURIN.
 Codices Hebraici manu exarati R. Bib-
 liothecae quae in Taurinensi Athenaeo
 asservatur, recensuit, illustravit Bernardus
 Peyron. 8vo, Taurini, 1880.

DERENBOURG, J., *Essai*.
 Essai sur l'histoire et la géographie de
 la Palestine, d'après les Thalmuds et les
 autres sources rabbiniques, 1^{re} partie. 8vo,
 Paris, 1877.
 F. M. See Rapoport.
 EPISTOLA.
 R. Jehuda ben Koreisch Thharatenstis
 Africani ad synagogam Judaeorum civi-
 tatis Fez epistola de studiis Targum utili-
 tate, etc., ed. J. J. L. Barges et D. B.
 Goldberg. 8vo, Lut. Parisiorum, 1857.
 ESSAI. See Derenbourg, J.
 FRIEDLÄNDER, *The Guide*.
 The Guide of the Perplexed of Ma-
 monides, translated from the original and
 annotated by M. Friedländer, Ph. D.
 Three vols. 8vo, London, 1881-1885.
 GRAETZ, G. d. J.
 Geschichte der Juden, von Dr. H. Graetz,
 eleven vols.; some of them have several
 editions, the last of which is quoted.
 G. V. See Zunz.
 HALBERSTAM, K. L.
Kebed hat-Lebanon (literary additions
 to the weekly Hebrew periodical hal-
 Lebanon, x and xi). 8vo, Mainz, 1874,
 1875.
 MAGAZIN.
 Magazin für die Wissenschaft des
 Judenthums, herausg. von Dr. A. Berliner
 und Dr. D. Hoffmann. Fol. and 8vo,
 Berlin, 1874 seqq.
 O. S. See Benjacob.

FRAGMENTS AND NOTES.

A. FROM A MS. IN DAMASCUS.

a. Sherira's Responsum. Pages 33, last line; 34, l. 5 seqq.: ונתן מלך פרסיהם

והנה היתה על רבתינו לחלל את השבת, ומה ברך את ישראל בקרבן רחמים ובהם נתן
ביתיה היתה את המלך בבית מושבו והתבטלה הגזירה. בשנת השלש נאסף מן זוטרא
ונתן ביום היתה יצאה גזילה בעולם ונדעוהו כל הארץ וכו' ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו
הבכורים ביום. ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו
בשנת השלש נאסף מן זוטרא ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו
Line 13 seqq.: ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו

בשנת השלש נאסף מן זוטרא ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו
Page 35, line 4 seqq.: ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו

והנה היתה על רבתינו לחלל את השבת, ומה ברך את ישראל בקרבן רחמים ובהם נתן
ביתיה היתה את המלך בבית מושבו והתבטלה הגזירה. בשנת השלש נאסף מן זוטרא
ונתן ביום היתה יצאה גזילה בעולם ונדעוהו כל הארץ וכו' ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו
הבכורים ביום. ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו
בשנת השלש נאסף מן זוטרא ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו
Page 35, line 4 seqq.: ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו ומה שכתבנו

¹ So MS. זועה. ² So MS. ³ See pp. 45, 177, and 183. ⁴ Erased. A a 2

¹ For the passage in the table of contents, see Catalogue . . . , 1868, No. 2443. ² Fol. 88. ³ Fol. 88b. ⁴ Fol. 89. Lacuna from beginning of § 154 to § 161, beginning missing. In the table of contents "א"ב"ג"ד"ה" is omitted from the MS. ⁵ The epithet "ה" is

אנכי של ברך המקובל ה"ה חיים ויטאל ו"ל הנקרא קאלאבריס והיה אדם גדול במחנה
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¹ חרר. ² A. וצד ומצד. ³ In o. only; Ed. יס טוב. ⁴ In O. עני. ⁵ L. ערב יס טוב. ⁶ A. omits; ∞. גנריליא; P. גנריליא; Ed. o. גנריליא. ⁷ E. גנריליא. ⁸ E. (o. בן) אבי. ⁹ A. adds בל. ¹⁰ A. מנחם. ¹¹ A. א. ¹² L. לקולן. ¹³ E. L. P. מנחם; A. מנחם; ∞. מנחם; Ed. O. מנחם. ¹⁴ מנחם. ¹⁵ E. הוא אבי; E. קמח. ¹⁶ Ed. adds מנחם. ¹⁷ A. מנחם. מנחם מנחם.

וצד ומצד חרר. ² A. וצד ומצד. ³ In o. only; Ed. יס טוב. ⁴ In O. עני. ⁵ L. ערב יס טוב. ⁶ A. omits; ∞. גנריליא; P. גנריליא; Ed. o. גנריליא. ⁷ E. גנריליא. ⁸ E. (o. בן) אבי. ⁹ A. adds בל. ¹⁰ A. מנחם. ¹¹ A. א. ¹² L. לקולן. ¹³ E. L. P. מנחם; A. מנחם; ∞. מנחם; Ed. O. מנחם. ¹⁴ מנחם. ¹⁵ E. הוא אבי; E. קמח. ¹⁶ Ed. adds מנחם. ¹⁷ A. מנחם. מנחם מנחם.

חרר. ² A. וצד ומצד. ³ In o. only; Ed. יס טוב. ⁴ In O. עני. ⁵ L. ערב יס טוב. ⁶ A. omits; ∞. גנריליא; P. גנריליא; Ed. o. גנריליא. ⁷ E. גנריליא. ⁸ E. (o. בן) אבי. ⁹ A. adds בל. ¹⁰ A. מנחם. ¹¹ A. א. ¹² L. לקולן. ¹³ E. L. P. מנחם; A. מנחם; ∞. מנחם; Ed. O. מנחם. ¹⁴ מנחם. ¹⁵ E. הוא אבי; E. קמח. ¹⁶ Ed. adds מנחם. ¹⁷ A. מנחם. מנחם מנחם.

1 E. השל; O. תשנ. 2 A. אפליגנ; P. אפליגנ; T. O. אפליגנ; 3
 אפליגנ; 4 A. O. אפליגנ; E. אפליגנ. 5 A. אפליגנ. 6 E. אפליגנ; 7 E. אפליגנ; 8 E. אפליגנ; 9 E. אפליגנ. 10 A. אפליגנ; 11 E. אפליגנ; 12 E. אפליגנ; 13 E. אפליגנ; 14 A. אפליגנ; 15 A. אפליגנ; 16 In P.; others. אפליגנ; 17 אפליגנ; 18 A. אפליגנ; 19 אפליגנ; 20 אפליגנ; 21 אפליגנ; 22 אפליגנ.

1. אפליגנ; 2. אפליגנ; 3. אפליגנ; 4. אפליגנ; 5. אפליגנ; 6. אפליגנ; 7. אפליגנ; 8. אפליגנ; 9. אפליגנ; 10. אפליגנ; 11. אפליגנ; 12. אפליגנ; 13. אפליגנ; 14. אפליגנ; 15. אפליגנ; 16. אפליגנ; 17. אפליגנ; 18. אפליגנ; 19. אפליגנ; 20. אפליגנ; 21. אפליגנ; 22. אפליגנ.

1 Ed. o. P. add וי. 2 A. o. P. add וי. 3 Ed. L. o. P. omit; H. omit for
 אבני. 4 O. P. add וי. 5 P. add וי. 6 תענית י"ז. 7 A. עשר. 8
 וי. 9 O. P. add וי. 10 A. וי. 11 A. גולת. 12 A. 13
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 19 O. P. add וי. 20 O. P. add וי. 21 E. מבי. 22 P. add וי.

1 Ed. o. P. add וי. 2 A. o. P. add וי. 3 Ed. L. o. P. omit; H. omit for
 אבני. 4 O. P. add וי. 5 P. add וי. 6 תענית י"ז. 7 A. עשר. 8
 וי. 9 O. P. add וי. 10 A. וי. 11 A. גולת. 12 A. 13
 וי. 14 A. רב. 15 א. 16 Some omit. 17 A. O. P. add וי. 18 A. omits.
 19 O. P. add וי. 20 O. P. add וי. 21 E. מבי. 22 P. add וי.

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 אבני. 4 O. P. add וי. 5 P. add וי. 6 תענית י"ז. 7 A. עשר. 8
 וי. 9 O. P. add וי. 10 A. וי. 11 A. גולת. 12 A. 13
 וי. 14 A. רב. 15 א. 16 Some omit. 17 A. O. P. add וי. 18 A. omits.
 19 O. P. add וי. 20 O. P. add וי. 21 E. מבי. 22 P. add וי.

¹ L. adds others have; ולקח רבה אהרן; A. adds רבה אהרן; T. and
² P. adds רבה אהרן; A. E. O. omit. ³ A. E. O. add
⁴ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add. ⁵ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.
⁶ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add. ⁷ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.
⁸ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add. ⁹ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.
¹⁰ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add. ¹¹ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.
¹² Some add. ¹³ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.
¹⁴ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add. ¹⁵ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.
¹⁶ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add. ¹⁷ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.
¹⁸ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add. ¹⁹ ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.

ולקח רבה אהרן; A. adds רבה אהרן; T. and
 ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.

ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.

ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.

ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.

ר. סימא; A. E. O. add.

1 H. omits. 2 P. p. V. מ"ע. 3 O. P. ב"ב. 4 O. omits; E. מבינה. 5 O. הנין. 6 E. ומתעשר. 7 O. על. 8 E. ונתנה לנאמני. 9 II. הורנו. 10 H. יהוה. 11 O. omits. 12 H. II. שני. 13 H. adds. 14 O. P. משעים. 15 O. omits; II. only. 16 II. מ"ז; O. P. מ"ז. 17 O. omits and II. בני; E. עקבה. 18 E. omits. 19 O. II. והיא. 20 E. words; E. להן; II. יתה. 21 E. adds. 22 O. omits the last two words; E. להן בפס. 23 O. P. מ"ח. 24 E. Only in H. 25 O. P. מ"ח. 26 E. omits; H. מ. 27 O. II. ושמואל אביו הוא. 28 O. II. שפרשו. 29 O. omits. 30 The two words only in H. 31 Not in H. 32 E. omits from l. 3 from the bottom.

32 E. omits from l. 3 from the bottom. 31 Not in H. 30 The two words only in H. 29 O. omits. 28 O. II. שפרשו. 27 O. II. ושמואל אביו הוא. 26 E. omits; H. מ. 25 O. P. מ"ח. 24 E. Only in H. 23 O. P. מ"ח. 22 O. omits the last two words; E. להן בפס. 21 E. adds. 20 E. והיא. 19 O. II. מ"ז; O. P. מ"ז. 18 E. omits and II. בני; E. עקבה. 17 O. omits. 16 II. מ"ז; O. P. מ"ז. 15 O. omits; II. only. 14 O. P. משעים. 13 H. adds. 12 H. II. שני. 11 O. omits. 10 H. יהוה. 9 II. הורנו. 8 E. ומתעשר. 7 O. על. 6 E. ונתנה לנאמני. 5 O. הנין. 4 O. omits; E. מבינה. 3 O. P. ב"ב. 2 P. p. V. מ"ע. 1 H. omits.

32 E. omits from l. 3 from the bottom. 31 Not in H. 30 The two words only in H. 29 O. omits. 28 O. II. שפרשו. 27 O. II. ושמואל אביו הוא. 26 E. omits; H. מ. 25 O. P. מ"ח. 24 E. Only in H. 23 O. P. מ"ח. 22 O. omits the last two words; E. להן בפס. 21 E. adds. 20 E. והיא. 19 O. II. מ"ז; O. P. מ"ז. 18 E. omits and II. בני; E. עקבה. 17 O. omits. 16 II. מ"ז; O. P. מ"ז. 15 O. omits; II. only. 14 O. P. משעים. 13 H. adds. 12 H. II. שני. 11 O. omits. 10 H. יהוה. 9 II. הורנו. 8 E. ומתעשר. 7 O. על. 6 E. ונתנה לנאמני. 5 O. הנין. 4 O. omits; E. מבינה. 3 O. P. ב"ב. 2 P. p. V. מ"ע. 1 H. omits.

¹ II. לקיטין. . . לקיטין. ² II. ויאמר יתרו משה. ³ E. ויאמר יתרו משה. ⁴ E. adds ויאמר יתרו משה. ⁵ H. מפא. ⁶ ב. ל' ח. ⁷ Some ברכות ל' ח. ⁸ ב. מ' ח. ⁹ E. P.; others נפש and נפש. ¹⁰ O. דמא. ¹¹ II. ויאמר יתרו משה. ¹² II. ויאמר יתרו משה. ¹³ G. ויאמר יתרו משה. ¹⁴ II. ויאמר יתרו משה. ¹⁵ II. ויאמר יתרו משה. ¹⁶ II. ויאמר יתרו משה. ¹⁷ II. ויאמר יתרו משה. ¹⁸ ב. ל' ח. ¹⁹ H. and II. ויאמר יתרו משה. ²⁰ E. ויאמר יתרו משה.

ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ¹ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ² ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ³ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ⁴ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ⁵ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ⁶ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ⁷ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ⁸ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ⁹ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ¹⁰ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ¹¹ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ¹² ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ¹³ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ¹⁴ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ¹⁵ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ¹⁶ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ¹⁷ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ¹⁸ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ¹⁹ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש. ²⁰ ואלה שמות ימי חג המועדות אשר יקראו עליהם יום קדש.

1 II. (not M.) בניי. ותלמידי רבני ומכנים אחריהם. 2 II. בניי. ותלמידי רבני ומכנים אחריהם. 3 II. בניי. ותלמידי רבני ומכנים אחריהם. 4 E. פסחתי. 5 II. (P. שולחן). 6 O. מתקופות. 7 II. שהיו and ש. 8 E. O. בתו. 9 and כל על. 10 II. ומשנאות. 11 II. אנשי. 12 E. וימי; H. יומיה. 13 (See I. 8); II. משנתי; כושני; כושני. 14 ע. יומיה. 15 II. שערות רבות שערות. 16 II. שערות רבות שערות. 17 So H. O.; שערות רבות שערות. 18 כלל; כלל. 19 II. שערות רבות שערות. 20 II. שערות רבות שערות. 21 II. שערות רבות שערות. 22 II. שערות רבות שערות.

1 II. (not M.) בניי. ותלמידי רבני ומכנים אחריהם. 2 II. בניי. ותלמידי רבני ומכנים אחריהם. 3 II. בניי. ותלמידי רבני ומכנים אחריהם. 4 E. פסחתי. 5 II. (P. שולחן). 6 O. מתקופות. 7 II. שהיו and ש. 8 E. O. בתו. 9 and כל על. 10 II. ומשנאות. 11 II. אנשי. 12 E. וימי; H. יומיה. 13 (See I. 8); II. משנתי; כושני; כושני. 14 ע. יומיה. 15 II. שערות רבות שערות. 16 II. שערות רבות שערות. 17 So H. O.; שערות רבות שערות. 18 כלל; כלל. 19 II. שערות רבות שערות. 20 II. שערות רבות שערות. 21 II. שערות רבות שערות. 22 II. שערות רבות שערות.

ה'תש"ב

בית דין קליר

אוקראינה

ה'תש"ב

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