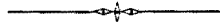


duced among the surrounding tribes. This, again, as far as it goes (and it goes a good way), tends to support the statements in the Pentateuch and historical books which represent the Jews as believing that they had received a Divine revelation and Divinely-ordered institutions—in fact, a national policy, secular and religious—at the hand of Moses.

We may further remark on the extreme improbability that a later writer should invent a number of utterly unnecessary details of the kind contained in this chapter. The only possible ground for their insertion is that they were obtained from authentic records to which the writer had access. He was not likely to have had access to them after the exile, when an altogether new order of things had come into existence. By that time the ancient records must have perished, and it would have been as fatuous to invent as it had become impossible to obtain them.

Lastly, the words “these are the generations” (origins—*tol'doth*) “of Jacob” (Gen. xxxvii. 2) are supposed to wind up the whole genealogy. Nothing of the kind. For what has gone before is not the genealogy of Jacob, but of Esau. By no stretch of language or of imagination can chap. xxxvi. be made to refer to Jacob. Why, then, may we not, as we have done in other cases, regard the expression as referring to what follows? Simply because the critics have assigned the chapter to JE. The fact that they have done so precludes the necessity for argument. Let us reverently submit to infallibility and its decrees.

J. J. LIAS.



ART. IV.—PRACTICAL ECHOES FROM THE BRIGHTON CHURCH CONGRESS.

II.

I MADE at Brighton notes on a great number of practical points of business, some of which, though individually, perhaps, seeming to be of no great importance, yet in the aggregate mount up considerably, and so have a material bearing on the comfort and convenience of the visitors to a Congress. These points do not very readily in all cases lend themselves to classification, and I shall have to present them to the reader in a somewhat disjointed form.

It has been the practice for many years to prepare for each Congress a special Congress Banner. These were allowed to accumulate, with the idea that at every Congress the banners

of all preceding Congresses should be exhibited to show the history of the movement. These banners have now so increased in number as to become burdensome; whilst they have grown from mere squares of silk with simple names and dates embroidered on them, costing altogether, perhaps, £5 each, to elaborate and highly-wrought specimens of art needlework, culminating at Brighton in a cost of £70. At the risk of being hooted by the votaries of ecclesiastical millinery, I suggest that (best of all) banners should be abolished; or, if not, that no attempt should be made any longer to parade them from Congress to Congress, but that, when done with at any Congress, they should be handed over then and there to some Church representative body, to be stored up locally as a reminiscence of a local event, or otherwise for local use. Under any circumstances, however, I venture to deprecate such a sum as £70 being spent on a banner as a wicked and useless waste of money.

The office arrangements in advance of a Congress deserve to be much more elaborately organized than is generally done. While a certain amount of office work in the shape of letters to write and answer falls to the paid Secretary intermittently between February and July, which he can dispose of at his own private residence, yet after July there should be a room in some handy position in the Congress town definitely set apart and publicly advertised as the office. Personal attendance should be given here, either by the Chief Secretary, or some responsible deputy, at fixed hours two or three times a week during July and August; whilst these attendances should be daily as from September 1 till the Congress is over. After the beginning of September the Congress office should be, if possible, under the roof of the Congress Assembly-Rooms, or in very close proximity thereto. The principal office accessible to the outside public should be a spacious apartment provided with an abundance of large tables, each dedicated to different branches of work, and each in charge of separate junior Clerks or Volunteer Assistants with defined duties. For instance, at one table nothing should be done but the filling up and delivery of tickets; another table should be the receipt of custom, including the giving of change, etc.; a third table should be dedicated to the reception, opening, and classification of general letters and telegrams; a fourth table should be set apart for Railway business; whilst the Hospitality Committee should have at their exclusive disposal a large table. All tables should be well provided with spring-clips, index-boxes, brass-spike files, and conveniences of that character, which are absolutely indispensable for the rapid, orderly, and accurate treatment of the

immense mass of correspondence which pours in daily during the last two or three weeks. At Brighton we had only two men permanently in residence, so to speak, and they were charged with a variety of matters distinct from one another, and which they unavoidably could not help muddling up. Our inside office arrangements at Brighton were terribly deficient in table-space, elbow-room, and method. The office ought to be kept open till a quarter of an hour after the end of each evening meeting.

The rooms and passages accessible to the members of the Congress generally should be properly indicated by a liberal allowance of printed labels in large type, such as "Writing Room," "Newspaper Room," "Type-writing Room," "Cloak Rooms," "Ticket-office," "Press Room" (to be marked "Private"), and so on.

Badges should be provided for the Secretaries, Treasurers, and Stewards. These should be circular, about two inches in diameter, in coloured leather, mounted on stiff millboard, and stamped as required—"Secretary," "Treasurer," "Chief Steward," "Steward," a different colour being allotted to each. A small supply of gummed labels with the word "Platform" on them should be kept ready to be placed on the tickets of a few privileged members, besides "Readers," "Speakers," and members of committees.

In connection with the sale of tickets, a decided mistake was made at Brighton by insisting on the day-tickets being 2s. 6d., and available for all the meetings of the dated day. It was pointed out that in many cases persons who did not care to incur the full expense of a full ticket at 7s. 6d. for the whole Congress ought to be offered the option of either a day-ticket for a whole day at 2s. 6d., or a ticket for one meeting only at 1s. A very large number of people came and asked for tickets for one meeting only, and whilst a certain number of them paid the 2s. 6d. for one meeting, it was quite evident that a very large number of tickets would have been sold for single meetings if the price had been put at 1s. only. Of course, if it were anticipated there would be a very special demand in respect of one meeting, and there was any prospect of the full-ticket holders being elbowed out by a great influx of 1s. ticket-holders, it would be easy, and perhaps sometimes it would be necessary, to place a limit on the issue of 1s. tickets.

Now for a few observations relating to the arrangements connected with the Meetings.

The rules as to the bell on the platform should be very plainly set out—that is to say, what the first bell means, and the second bell, as regards the intervals. Much confusion will

be saved if these rules are printed in the *Guide* much more plainly than they were printed in the *Brighton Guide*.

The Secretaries should be within easy reach of the President, so that he can readily communicate with them and they with him. In certain rooms at Brighton the Secretaries were placed at a very much lower level, and this was found exceeding inconvenient for everybody concerned.

The first, or two first, rows of chairs should be reserved for deaf people, and labelled accordingly.

The arrangements as to Stewards should be carefully thought out. There should be one Chief Steward in control of each Meeting-room, with one Chief Ticket-taker at each door, and the other Stewards in the room should be placed under the supreme control of the Chief Steward.

Though all readers and speakers do not require any sort of desk for their papers or notes, many speakers find such desks a great convenience, and one should be provided on each platform. A table is not enough. It must be a stand which can be raised to a good height above the floor, so that a speaker, who is a tall man, shall not have to stoop down to his own personal inconvenience, and to the loss of the audience; for if a speaker at a large meeting wishes to be heard, and the audience wish to hear him, he must be able always to stand well upright, and to keep his head upright. A music-stand is generally offered as suitable for this purpose, and so it is if its range of adjustment will take it up sufficiently high, which is not always the case. The average level of the shelf of the stand should be capable of being put up to nearly five feet. In addition to and independent of the desk a rail for speakers to lean upon is often appreciated.

A matter deserving of careful thought is the music to be given at the Mayor's Reception. It may be taken for granted that a full composition, likely to last, say, a whole hour, must not be thought of. Such was offered at Brighton, and very wisely refused by the Committee, who considered that the music should be so many distinct compositions, each complete in itself, and with a good allowance of time between each for conversation, which is certain to take place, whether an interval is allowed or not. If the principal reception-room is a very large one, it is questionable policy to accept offers of vocal solos, whether by ladies or gentlemen; in fact, under the best of circumstances, vocal music has a bad chance of being appreciated. However, if it is accepted, it had best be in the form of choruses or glees. If the music is not vocal, but only instrumental, and especially if a band supplies it, very great pressure should be put upon the conductor to keep the volume of sound down. I can recall, and so can everybody, many occasions in

which a loud band, however good the music, has been a nuisance and an annoyance. An evening reception, especially under its other and very good name of *conversazione*, is a period of time intended for conversation and which the visitors desire and intend should be so used, and anything which prevents them enjoying the society of the friends, who in many cases they come specially to meet and talk with, becomes a burden and annoyance.

The work of the Hospitality Committee is one which requires a very much larger amount of forethought and prearrangement than those appointed to organize hospitality generally realize. The matter is set in motion, or should be set in motion, by the issue of three circulars :

1. A circular to residents asking if they are disposed to take in some visitors, and for what length of time.

2. A circular to go out to purchasers of Congress tickets inviting them to state what accommodation they will require, coupled with a promise on the part of the Committee that though they will do their best to obtain the accommodation asked for, no guarantee can be given that it can be provided. The paragraph in the circular which states this should be worded with great care, because it often happens, and did so at Brighton, that purchasers of tickets treat the receipt of the ticket and the circular as a pledge that they will be provided with bed and board free of cost. There were numerous complaints in regard to this received by the Committee, and some of them couched in very intemperate language.

3. A circular to go out to hotels, boarding-house keepers, and ordinary lodging-house keepers, inviting them to state what accommodation they will be able to offer, and what their charges will be. These circulars should be slightly different in their wording according to the class of house which is addressed. But it is a very important matter that they should be asked to give the information in some detail, and not in a lump form—that is to say, not only charges per week, but charges per period—Monday to Saturday, charges per day, and charges per meal. If this is not done, visitors may be hindered in accepting day invitations to meals away from their lodgings, or if they do accept disputes and unpleasantness may arise in settling up, when visitors claim, as naturally they will do and should do, a rebate, in regard to meals which they have not taken.

A matter which deserves careful attention in advance is the official list of ticket-holders, which is generally issued on the Tuesday of the Congress, but which, for various reasons, had much better be kept back till the Wednesday. I had no idea until I embarked on the matter how exceedingly complicated

and troublesome a business it is to prepare this list. The general practice has been for a clerk in the office to transcribe the names for the printer from the official record of the tickets sold from time to time. Of course, the book in which these entries are made only contains the names and addresses of the ticket-holders as the tickets are issued. Of course, they are not in alphabetical order, and they only give the home addresses of the ticket-holders, and not the addresses at which they will be found in the Congress town or neighbourhood. This is a subsequent process, and a very troublesome one. The names have to be transcribed under the letters of the alphabet, and the local address is added under great pressure of time quite at the last minute, say during the last three or four days before they have to be put into the printer's hands on the Monday or Tuesday. Experience shows that it is impossible to do this even with the most moderate accuracy in the available time. The transcription of such a mass of proper names from one manuscript into another manuscript is fatal to accuracy, and the only way in which it can be done is to notify to ticket-holders that if they wish their names entered they must hand in or send their visiting-cards or some equivalent prepared by themselves at the time when they apply for their tickets. The tickets being applied for during many previous weeks, cards so sent in can be sorted at leisure into the strictest alphabetical order, and they can be fastened into books or put on a spiked file, and handed to the printer so that the compositor can work from a printed original without the intervention of two copyists. In this way, not only is accuracy more easily obtained, but the names can be inserted to the very last minute in their proper order, and the minimum amount of time needs to be expended in verifying the spelling. Once get the names and home addresses in type, it is a comparatively simple matter to add in, on a facing page, the Congress town addresses. From our experience at Brighton, it is quite evident that a large and remunerative sale can be obtained for the list of names if it is got out with a fair amount of accuracy and especially with promptitude. We printed 750 copies, and could have sold a much larger number if the matter had been properly worked out in sufficient time.

The Post-Office department of the Congress is worked entirely by the Post-Office authorities, and the Congress officials are called upon to do nothing but provide the room, and the requisite tables or benches. There was at Brighton a serious omission that gave rise to many complaints. The Post-Office room was not very handy to the reception and reading rooms, but a little out of the way. The inconvenient effects of this might have been cured (but the matter was not

thought of in time) by the provision of a box for the reception of letters in the central hall.

Although the usual Post-Office arrangements were in force that stamped letters sent through the post could be asked for at the Post-Office table as at an ordinary Post-Office, yet it was impossible to dispel the idea which was in many people's minds that they could leave unpaid letters at the Congress general office, and ask for letters, parcels, and such things at that office. It would be far better to recognise this as a facility which the Committee were practically bound to supply, and to organize it properly in advance. If this is done, a very important fitting is a rack such as that used at hotels for exhibiting on the face of a wall a row of letters and telegrams affixed temporarily by means of a clip.

Perhaps mention may here be made in connection with this matter of the question of a Lost Property Office. Everybody seems to consider that the Secretaries can always find lost property, and make it their business to collect it and safeguard it. At Brighton it was considered to be the proper function of the custodian of the public rooms, but he was seldom to be found, and those who had lost their property invariably went to the Secretaries first of all to claim it.

A novelty was introduced at the Brighton Congress which worked exceedingly well—a refreshment-room conducted by a local lady of position, assisted by thirty young ladies collected from amongst her friends, and two or three gentlemen, to do special work. The food was all given. With rare exceptions, it was found to be of the best quality. The prices were very moderate. There was very little money paid directly by the Congress Committee in connection with the refreshments beyond the hire of glass and china, so that the sales were almost entirely net profit, and this profit was handed over to the Church Schools Fund. The professional caterer and the professional waiter were kept entirely out of the affair, and whether one inquired as to the luncheons or the teas, the reports were in the highest degree favourable. The attendance was very large every day. Business was carried on from 12.0 to 8.0 p.m., the idea being to supply luncheons at 1s. 6d. from 12.0 to 2.0, afternoon teas from 4.0 to 6.0, and a light meat supper from 6.0 to 8.0. The ladies who worked it sent their own circulars to their own friends, and the Congress Committee had the satisfaction of knowing that their ticket-holders were well-fed, and cheaply fed, under circumstances which were very favourable to the personal comfort of the guests. Where a party of visitors desired to have their meals as a family party, they were able

to engage tables to themselves which would accommodate from four to ten persons.

I have already more than exhausted the space at my disposal, and must pass over other points which I had desired to note, dealing only with one more matter. The Brighton Committee restored a practice which was formerly universal, namely, having two or more meetings going on at the same time; and they came in for a good deal of censure in certain quarters for doing so. I desire to express the opinion that this censure was altogether unreasonable. Though it is quite true that there may be a certain number of persons desirous of attending both of two meetings which are going on at the same time, on the other hand, there are a certain number of persons who do not desire to do this, and very likely in many cases they are a majority. If, therefore, it were laid down as a standing principle that there were never to be any simultaneous meetings the result would be that only half the number of subjects otherwise possible could be put upon the programme, and from that reduced number of meetings a large number of ticket-holders would be absent, and have nothing to do but loaf about the streets of the Congress town. On the other hand, by having meetings always in duplicate, and sometimes even in triplicate, a very much larger amount of ground may be covered, a very much larger number of members will be provided with *pabulum*, and a certain number of minor subjects, not perhaps of general interest, but yet useful and important in their way, can be ventilated, although only to small audiences. If any drastic reform of established usages is to be contemplated I think a good deal may be said for reducing the number of meetings in succession. Meetings morning, afternoon, and evening are indeed a great strain both on Congress members and Congress officials, and I should like to see the experiment tried of only two meetings a day—say, afternoon and evening on Tuesday; morning and evening on Wednesday; and morning and afternoon on Thursday and Friday. This would leave the Thursday evening free for the *Conversazione*, and the Friday evening for the Working Men's Meeting; and as Congress members in general are not admissible to this last-named meeting, they would be free to do what many of them would often like to do—that is, go home without sleeping on Friday night in the Congress town, and yet without missing any ordinary meeting by going home.

The discontinuance of the Devotional Meeting was discussed by the Brighton Committee, and would be a change in favour of which much might be urged.

G. F. CHAMBERS.