

The Gold Kiddush Cup.

By ALDERMAN ERNEST S. MARKS, C.B.E.

(Read before the Society, 28th July, 1942.)

The first discovery of gold in Australia is officially credited to Edward Hammond Hargraves, who found payable quantities of the precious metal near Bathurst, in New South Wales, in 1851. Shortly afterwards, gold was discovered in the neighbouring colony (now State) of Victoria, and later there were findings reported in the majority of the other Australian colonies.

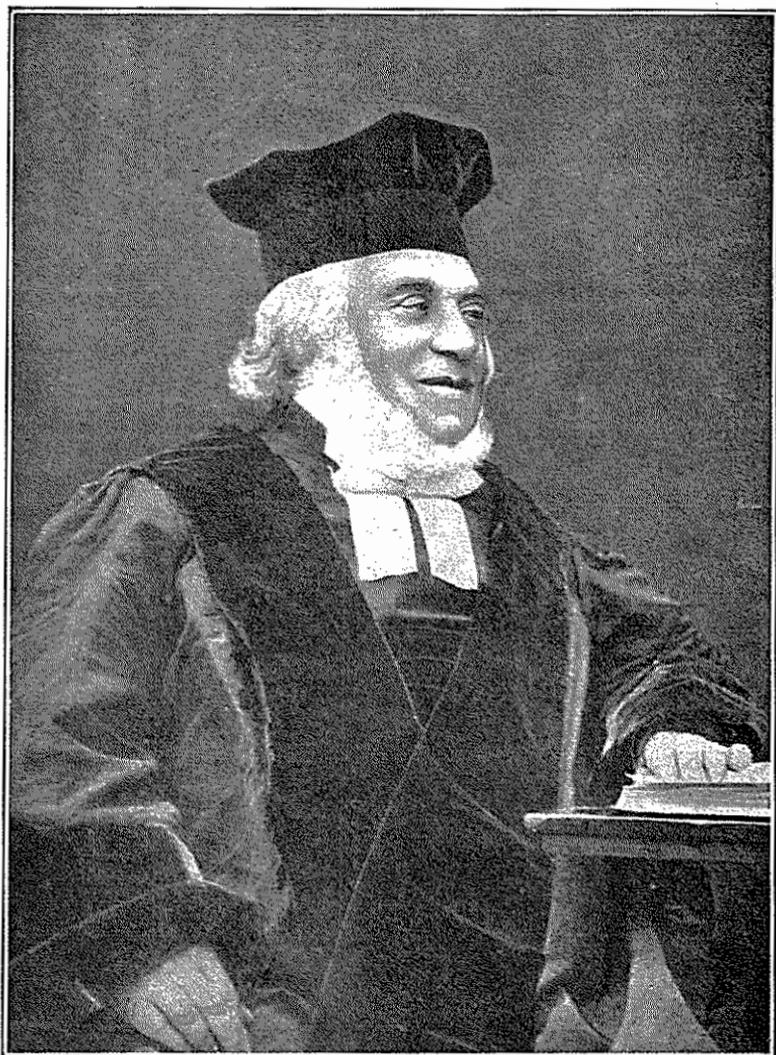
In New South Wales a maximum yield of gold was reached in 1852. The amount produced by the Mother State was, however, soon surpassed by the richer and more lasting goldfields of the much smaller State of Victoria, where maximum production was attained in 1856.

Over a period of ten years the Victorian fields produced an average of ten million pounds of gold per annum. From the whole of Australia an average of eleven and a half million pounds' worth was won from the earth each year over the period 1852 to 1860. Of the total Australian gold yield over that period Victoria in fact produced 87 per cent.*

While the boom was at his height, certain Jewish residents of Victoria formed the idea of marking their appreciation of the bounties of Providence in the matter of the gold yield. A meeting of Jewish citizens was held in Melbourne in the month of June, 1852, and a committee set up under the title of "The Victorian Gold Subscription Committee," with Mr. Angel Ellis as its honorary secretary. After several meetings, the committee decided to make a presentation to the Rev. Dr. Nathan Marcus Adler, then Chief Rabbi of British Jews, of a Gold Kiddush Cup.

On July 12th, 1852, forty and eleven-twelfths ounces of gold (said to have been a product of the Bendigo, Victoria, field) was despatched in bullion form by Mr. Angel Ellis on behalf of the committee under consignment

*These particulars are condensed from the *Australian Encyclopaedia*, 1927.



DR. NATHAN M. ADLER,

Chief Rabbi of the United Congregations of the British Empire.
Born January 12, 1803. Died January 21, 1890.

to Messrs. Elias Davis, Henry J. Hart and Edward S. Moses, of London.

The bullion duly reached its destination, and, in conformity with the directions of the Gold Subscription Committee, the three gentlemen named waited upon the Rev. Dr. Adler in London with the gold in the state in which it had been despatched, and secured the consent of the Chief Rabbi to the manufacture of a Kiddush Cup for later presentation to him.

In due course the gold was manufactured by Mr. C. F. Hancock, of 39 Bruton Street, London, into a Kiddush Cup, a description of which, as appearing in the *Jewish Chronicle*, July 22nd, 1853, Vol. IX., No. 42, reads as follows :—

From a circular foot, with chased border, springs a banana tree, which expands into, and supports the eup. This is divided into four compartments on two of which are chased medallions of the "Lion and the Lamb," and the "Chalice and Open Bible," the other two are occupied by the inscription in Hebrew and English. From the body of the Cup hangs festoons of flowers, and the cover is embossed with wreaths of laurel.

On Monday, 1st August, 1853, according to the *Jewish Chronicle* of August 10th, 1853, Vol. IX., No. 45, the three gentlemen beforementioned again attended on behalf of the subscribers to the fund on the Chief Rabbi at his residence in Crosby Square, London, and made a presentation of the cup. It carried an inscription in Hebrew, which, translated, reads as follows :—

This cup, made from gold, the produce of the mines of Victoria, is presented to the Rev. Dr. Nathan Marcus Adler, Chief Rabbi of the British Jews, as a token of the high esteem in which he is held by his brethren in this colony, and to mark their sense of his indefatigable exertions in the holy cause of religion and education.

Melbourne Victoria July 12th 1852 (A.M. 5612).

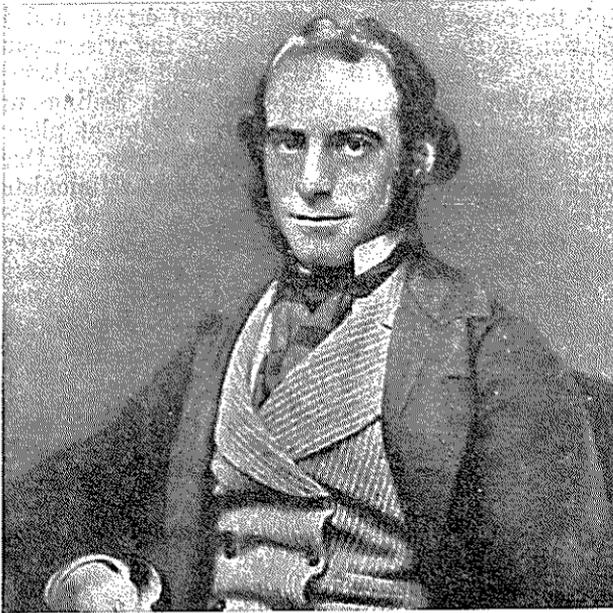
The deputation then read and later presented an illuminated address in terms as follows :—

To the Rev. Dr. Nathan Marcus Adler, Chief Rabbi of the British Jews.

Rev. Sir :—The Jewish inhabitants of the colony of Victoria respectfully desire to express the feelings of veneration and respect they entertain towards you, and avail themselves of this opportunity of returning you their unfeigned thanks for the kindly affection

you express for them, and for the anxiety you display to hear of their welfare, both spiritual and temporal.

They have not remained in ignorance (although residing at this remote distance) of the great good rendered by you to the cause of religion and education; and it is such knowledge that still closer endears you to the heart of every Jew who can appreciate the inevitable good that must necessarily result from the progress and extension of the principles of our holy religion, particularly when assisted by the powerful aid of education.



ANGEL ELLIS.

They have every confidence in your power and will to promote the spiritual and temporal happiness of their brethren, both at home and abroad, and their humble prayer is, that you may long be spared to continue your exertions in this good and holy cause; and while they express this, their earnest wish, they respectfully request your acceptance of the accompanying "Sanctification Cup" (manufactured from the produce of the colony) as a slight token of the esteem and respect they entertain for you, and to mark their sense of the untiring zeal and perseverance evinced by you in all that concerns the welfare of the Jews generally.

Trusting that they may long retain your paternal watchfulness

they beg to subscribe themselves, reverend Sir, yours in the bonds of our holy faith.

For and on behalf of the Jews of the colony of Victoria,

ANGEL ELLIS,

Hon. Sec. to the Subscription Committee.

Melbourne Victoria, July 12th 1852.

Mr. Elias Davis informed the Reverend Doctor that his colleagues, with himself, so fully concurred in the sincerely affectionate words of the address that, to avoid lessening the force of those expressions of esteem and just appreciation of the reverend gentleman, the wisest course would be to remain silent, but he could not allow the opportunity to pass without expressing their feelings upon the occasion. It was to them a source of great pleasure to be made the medium to convey to the Reverend Doctor this mark of esteem and respect of their co-religionists in Australia. This feeling was greatly enhanced by the reflection that amidst the excitement of the gold discoveries, and in the full flush of prosperity and success, their first thought should revert to home and to those religious institutions by which only true happiness can be obtained, and at once embodied their feeling in his testimonial to the head and representative of that religion.

He would also say that, although small in size, this testimonial was not the less valuable on that account. Rather from its preciousness, it was symbolical of how large an amount of goodwill, respect and esteem may be concentrated in a small compass. He (Mr. Davis) thought he ought not to take up the time of the Reverend Doctor by adding more to what he had already said. He felt he could not say less, and concluded by wishing that the Reverend Doctor would live many long and happy years in the respect and esteem of a community which knew how to value so well his many excellent qualities.

The Reverend Doctor, after admiring the design and beauty of the workmanship of the cup and the wording of the address, made an acknowledgment as follows :—

Gentlemen,—This testimonial of regard which you have presented to me in so feeling and courteous a manner, calls forth my warmest and sincerest gratitude : and in order that I should give full expression to these feelings for so substantial a mark of the regard of my co-religionists of Australia, I would prefer, if agreeable to

yourselves, to do so by letter. I must say, however, that I cannot sufficiently express to you, gentlemen, the gratitude and high appreciation I entertain of the trouble and interest you have so kindly taken in carrying out the intentions of the contributors. May I add only that this, to me invaluable testimonial—when I remember the trouble it must have cost you, and look at the refined taste and beauty displayed in its production—has made a great impression on my heart, and I shall rank this day as one of the most happy in my life.

The following is a copy of the letter referred to in the Reverend Doctor's reply :—

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to tender you my most sincere and warmest thanks for the flattering sentiments you have expressed towards me in your address, accompanied by a tasteful and magnificent Sanctification Cup, conveyed to me by your appointed excellent committee here, fully aware that your kind expressions far exceed what I am conscious of deserving. It is to me a source of delight, to perceive in this distinguished mark of attention this high motive, namely, that amidst the first dazzling of plenty and affluence, you have not lost sight of "people and fathers' house," but have looked up to the Great Restorer of those multiplied blessings—have looked back to those with whom you are linked by the same origin, history, religious belief—and other sacred connections, and have looked forward to our future spiritual hopes and aims. This exalted motive affords me the pleasing conviction, that you will contrive to use these blessings for the strengthening of our holy faith; by the furtherance of the social, moral, and religious condition of your colony, and by the establishment, improvement and growth of your institutions of religion and education. By which means you will hasten the time—symbolised in your cup—of that world-wide harmony when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, and all will serve him with one consent. With the assurance, that I hail every opportunity to render my spiritual aid and my humble service for the promotion of these sacred causes, and with my fervent prayer that the Almighty God may shield you with His superintending providence, and grant you increasing prosperity, with the chief good of peace upon Israel.

I remain Gentlemen, yours very faithfully,

N. ADLER, DR.

In 1887, the Cup was exhibited at the Anglo-Jewish Historical Exhibition held at the Royal Albert Hall, London. According to the catalogue, it was a present to Dr. Adler from the Melbourne Hebrew congregation, and had been exhibited at the Exhibition of 1851.

Through the good offices of the Society's London representative, Mr. Norman L. Mandelson, and of Mr. Elkan N. Adler, a son of the late Chief Rabbi, Dr. Nathan

Marcus Adler, the destination of the Kiddush Cup subsequent to the death of Dr. Adler may now be recorded.

The cup was bequeathed by Dr. Adler to his eldest daughter, the late Mrs. Henry Solomon, whose eldest surviving son, Mr. J. H. Solomon, of 14 Kensington Palace Gardens, London, now owns the cup.

Mr. Solomon was good enough to permit Mr. Mandelson to inspect the cup, which, in Mr. Mandelson's words, is described as "of dark red gold and about ten inches high."

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For the photograph of Mr. Angel Ellis I am indebted to Mr. P. D. Phillips, ~~K.C.~~ of the Victorian Bar. Mr. Phillips is a grandson of Mr. Angel Ellis, who was for many years an important official of the Melbourne Gas Company. For the photograph of Rabbi Dr. Adler I am under special obligation to Mrs. Adelaide Moses, of 47 The Avenue, Brondesbury Park, London, who was good enough to forward the photograph to Mr. Mandelson in reply to a paragraph inserted by him in the *London Jewish Chronicle*.

The Jewish Press of Australia.

(Read before the Jewish Literary and Debating Society
of Sydney in 1913.)

By the late PERCY J. MARKS.

The complete history of Judaism in Australia has yet to be compiled. Valuable articles on the subject have been written at various times dealing with particular congregations. Mr. Brodzsky has written of the founding of the two Melbourne congregations; the Rev. Mr. Boas has done the same for the Adelaide Synagogue; and the Rev. A. B. Davis, our venerable Rabbi Emeritus, and Mr. Coleman P. Hyman have dealt in more or less concise form with the history of Sydney Jewry, but no complete view comprising the whole of Australasia has yet been written. For some years past I have been collecting information about the various congregations, and have several scrap books full of useful information. Time alone can tell whether I will be able to put the undigested