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MS-53: Moses J. Gries Papers, 1850-1934 (bulk 1890-1930).

Series D: Sermons and Addresses, 1893-1917, undated.

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“Council Educational Alliance dedication address,”
1909 September 8.

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Dedication of the COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE,
Cleveland, Ohio, Wednesday Evening, Sept. 8, 1909.

Opening Prayer was offered by Rabbi Louis Wolsey.

ADDRESS OF RABBI MOSES J. GRIES, PRESIDENT, *Council Educational Alliance.*

We dedicate tonight a temple to humanity. Embodied here in this sanctuary of strength and beauty are the gifts of the patrons whom we delight to honor; embodied also, the gifts of the young benefactors whose efforts have made possible the erection and the dedication of this building; embodied here also are the love of noble hearts and the labors of willing and faithful hands and the enthusiasms, spirit, and the ideals and the hopes of the mighty host of loyal ^{social} ~~men and women~~ workers.

This place will stand as a monument. Not a line of brick, and stone, and mortar, but is a living witness to the magnificent, embodied, social spirit of the men and women of this community, and of the young men and women, and for years to come it will endure as an honor to the Jews of Cleveland. There can be no better investment of the money that is entrusted to us than its investment in human hearts and human minds, and there will be paid back to us no better, no greater and no finer dividend than that which will be realized in the ennobling of life and the enrichment of character. So, this building will stand as a temple of service to the human family, an object, ^{and} center of life and of light and of power to the ~~men and women~~ ^{men and women} to the young men and young women, to the boys and girls of this neighborhood, -

a social and an educational center to the thousands that live and gather about this place, and a center of power--a center of power because here we shall cooperate with all the forces for good and we shall fight against all the forces for evil that surround us.

We dedicate this building to the highest interests of the people of this neighborhood, to its men and women, to its young men and young women, to its boys and to its girls, for the advancement of the physical and intellectual and the moral life of the people.

The problem of all our Jewish philanthropies is the care of the emigrant--the emigrant uprooted from another civilization--the child ~~of the~~ emigrant thrust suddenly into a strange environment--, and our duty ~~that~~ is, to all who seek a home and a refuge in this land, that we welcome him to live here, give him a chance to work, and welcome him to find a place in the nation; that we prepare him for American life and for American citizenship. Therefore, we must teach him to understand American government and American institutions, American ideas and principles, inspire him with love and loyalty to our beloved America. We seek our brethren, and we desire to help them and their children, in order that they may find an open door, to make easy the adjustment to the strange American environment; and the rich reward will be that the friendless refugees, and those who have been outcasts, outcasts from their own fatherland, outcasts from the lands to which their fathers gave their life-blood,--those outcasts whom Russia and the other nations hated and oppressed, and felt as a danger and menace,--the rich reward will be, that here in America they will prove they are no danger to free America, and here in America will prove of economic value, thereby making

the greatest tribute to the blessings and power of liberty. The old Hebrew of the old stock, the old Hebrew of the great races of history once again will make living contribution--living contribution to young America, giving new life to American character and ideals, and seal with his life-blood the defense of the cause of freedom and justice.

