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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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“Cleveland in 1903,” 1903 January 4.

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American Jewish Archives website.

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Jan. 4, 1903.

(Please return copy to Rabbi Moses J. Gries, 45 Oakdale St.)

### CLEVELAND IN 1903.

The millions live and will live in cities. Therefore the problems of the twentieth century life must be solved in cities. Cleveland has grown marvellously. Her life seems healthy, strong and steady. It is not feverish. Hereby is revealed the character of the city and its citizens.

Every citizen has duty to his city--to the city of his birth, and more especially, to the city of his life. We should have pride in our city; not alone in its physical growth, in its wealth and population, in its industry and commerce. We should be zealous for the good name and fair fame of our city. Cleveland should stand for everything that is best.

I believe in the city beautiful--as beautiful as nature and the arts may make her. Our city is the home of the hundreds of thousands. It should be attractive and inviting, even as we make our homes attractive and inviting. All should unite for the successful carrying out of the grouping of our public buildings. It will distinguish Cleveland among the great cities of the world.

I believe in the city clean--streets and alleys clean. Cleveland needs a stronger and wiser public opinion, to make successful war against filth and pollution and disease. May we in 1903 create conditions of health for the rich and the poor on the broad avenues, and more especially in the narrow streets and alleys.



The truest and best life of a city is intellectual and moral, rather than physical. A city is ~~xx~~ judged by its intellectual and moral spirit. Let us give earnest and intelligent support to our public schools, to hold them free from all political influence, and to hold them true to their highest purpose--the preparation of our boys and girls for manhood and womanhood. ¶ Let us meet our political responsibility like men. To our state was given the opportunity for the creation of an ideal form of government for cities. The opportunity was wasted. Now the duty is upon all of us to inaugurate the best possible government under the new code. Let us not shirk our responsibility. Already the factions are quarrelling about the spoils that may be, aiming at selfish advantage under the pretense of the public good. Citizens should free themselves from partisan bias, and I believe as far as the city is concerned, from partisan allegiance. Our cities need independence of political judgment, and we need the courage to act independently.

Our charities should be more thoroughly organized and more wisely administered. The hundreds of thousands of dollars generously given should accomplish more definite results. A wiser charity would be of more real help to the poor. ¶ The religious life and spirit of our city are wisely conservative, but there must be no narrowness. I rejoice in the growth of a conscientious and intelligent liberalism.

Every good citizen should have interest in the pleas-

ures of our city--~~what~~ whether they be clean or unclean, refining or degrading. The pleasures of a city reveal its moral tendencies, and mightily influence the life and development of our young men and young women. The <sup>morality and</sup> ~~educational and cultural~~, the art and music life of a great city are the index of its rank and standing.

Cleveland is like a powerful personality--a centering of a thousand personal forces. It has infinite possibilities for good and for evil. We can make its power tell for good in all the varied life of its people. The world and men are bettering. Let Cleveland lead along the way to the healthiest and best and noblest life possible to the men and women and children destined to live in a great city.