

SPLENDID.

The New Jewish Temple is a Model of Archi- tecture.

The Dedicatory Exercises Last Night Were Impressive.

Description of the Edifice.

A Glorious Musical Program Was
Given in Opening the Services—M.
A. Marks, Rabbi Gries, Dr. Wise,
and Dr. Machol Participate in the
Services—A Magnificent Struc-
ture.

The new temple of Tifereth Israel congregation at the corner of Willson and Central avenues, was dedicated last evening with the most impressive ceremonies. Moses J. Gries is rabbi, and both he and his congregation have labored long and ardently for the completion of the structure. Now that it is ready it is seen to be one of the most magnificent houses of worship in this city.

The wondrous beauty of the temple cannot be underrated, and the pen is hardly adequate to describe it. The auditorium is one of the finest models of architecture in the country. The room is nearly square and over it is the immense dome that makes the building so impressive. The chancel, choir loft and organ, the latter being a splendid instrument, are on the south side. The floor slopes toward the chancel and is carpeted with a rich body brussels. Luxurious quarter oak, upholstered chairs, similar to opera chairs, make easy seats and give a seating capacity of 800. The furnishing supplied by the Gayton Furniture Co. is exquisite. On three sides of the room are galleries, and they seat 200 more. The wainscoting of the room is marble. The wall and dome are decorated with pure white molding. Along this molding are long rows of incandescent lights with flower shaped shades, which cast beautiful shadows. These rows of lights extend to the top of the dome. The effect is so exquisite that it must be seen to be thoroughly appreciated.

In this auditorium was held the dedicatory service. Decorations of palms lined the front of the room and great wreaths of smilax and roses hung from the chandeliers. The congregation that gathered included representatives of the wealthiest and most respected Jewish families of the city. The service opened with Gounod's "Marche Religieuse" for organ, played by Wilson G. Smith, the organist. To the majestic strains of the march a procession of twelve girls, arrayed in spotless white gowns, followed by Rabbi Gries, Rabbi Machol, Rabbi Wise, President Marks, Vice President Buchman and Chairman Feiss, proceeded to the chancel. Then occurred the beautiful ceremony of depositing the scroll, in which Rabbi Gries officiated. The scroll contains the Jewish law or ten commandments, and is deposited in the ark in an alcove behind the pulpit. The choir and organ participated.

This was followed by the kindling of the perpetual lamp which overhangs the pulpit. This lamp was presented by Mrs. Isaac Dryfoos. Up to the time of the kindling of the lamp the room was dimly lighted, but as Rabbi Gries started the fire, suddenly the hundreds of electric lights were turned on and their brilliant radiance dazzled the congregation.

After an anthem, "The Heavens are Declaring," by Beethoven, the ceremony of the presentation of the key of the temple followed. This key had been borne upon a bed of roses by the girls in white. Jessie Feiss handed it to her father, Mr. Julius Feiss, chairman of the building committee, and he presented it to Mr. M. A. Marks, president of the congregation, with the following words: "I wish to thank the members of the building committee for their earnest efforts and co-operation, and to congratulate this congregation upon the successful completion of this magnificent house of worship. The work of your committee is completed, and I hope it is satisfactory to you and to the congregation."

President Marks responded as follows: "In behalf of the temple and congregation, Tifereth Israel, I accept the key of this magnificent structure, erected under the supervision of yourself and collaborators. You have an undisputed right to be proud of the results achieved. While every member of the committee is entitled to his share of praise I know that all will agree that to no one person more credit is due than to you, Mr. Feiss. It would also be unjust did I fail to mention the extraordinary amount of labor performed by our beloved rabbi, M. J. Gries."

The speaker then gave a history of the congregation, which was organized May 26, 1850, with forty-seven members, and was located on Huron street. He continued: "Amidst all the changes in our country since that time Judaism has stood unshaken and each succeeding year sees it strengthened." Then he described the marvelous progress of the human race,

and in conclusion said: "Let us waste no sentimental sorrow over lost opportunities to serve God and win a laurel wreath of glory. The time and the occasion are now and here. The association of men and women for worship implies devotion to some principle that satisfies the longings of the human soul. Faith in a living God carries all men onward in a progressive line of thought. We know all things mortal have a beginning, and only the infinite is perfect. We are struggling for that attainment in this life which will fit the spiritual man for his eternal sojourn in the immortal home of our Creator. We have for our standard bearer a noble, zealous, faithful, young man. Let us follow his leadership to nobler thoughts, higher ideals, grander aspirations and the result will be that Tifereth Israel will really be what its name indicates, the glory of Israel. Let our motto from this time be 'Onward and Upward.' Let us take off the hinges that held the narrow doors and open wide the passageway to the yearnings of every immortal soul."

The choir sang Gounod's "Holy, Holy, Holy!" and Rabbi Gries followed with the solemn dedicatory prayer. He prayed: "God and Father, I dedicate this house unto Thee and to Thy service. I dedicate it to be a temple unto Israel and a 'house of prayer unto all nations.' (Is. lvi., 7-9.) 'Thy name will be remembered in this place, come unto us and bless us.' (Ex. xx., 21.) We have built a sanctuary unto Thee. Do Thou make it Thy dwelling place and hallow it." Can man build unto Thee a house that Thou shouldst dwell in it? Behold the heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee, how much less the house that I have builded.' (1 K. viii, 27.) Beautiful is this temple, but its beauty and splendor and magnificence do not make the house of God. The stone of the field and the simple altar of earth were God's holy place. The humble heart and the reverent spirit made them holy. Reverence and humility, be in us when we enter here. 'Pride and worldliness, halt you without.' To the glory of God do we erect this altar, and not to the glory of man. To the service of God and to service among men do we consecrate this shrine. Let it be a temple of truth, proclaiming the messages of God unto mankind. God and father, we ask Thy blessing upon this house. 'Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it,' Ps. 127 1.

"Do Thou consecrate this congregation of Israel to a higher and purer and truer religious life. Cause it 'to learn and to teach, to keep and to do all the words of Thy law.' Cause it to be Tifereth Yisroel—a glory unto Israel. As Solomon blessed the people of Israel at the dedication of the first holy temple, so do I bless you. 'Know ye that the eternal is God and none else. Let your heart be perfect with the Eternal, your God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments,' 1k. viii, 60-61.

"Consecrate Thou, the minister of this congregation, Thy humble servant. I feel myself newly anointed. In this solemn hour I rededicate myself unto Thy service and unto the service of this people. Give me health and strength to do Thy work. Bless me with a life full of blessing unto others. Help me to speak Thy word and to proclaim Thy law and to bring the congregation of Israel now nearer unto Thee. Keep me pure that I may lead the multitude to purity. Let righteousness be in me that righteousness may grow in all my people. Grant, O God, that I be permitted to lend a supporting staff unto the old, to give guidance and direction to the young; in hours of sorrow to offer consolation; in darkness to bring light; in weakness to be a pillar of strength. My Lord, may it be the word of sincerity and truth; my prayer, may it be the prayer of earnestness and devotion; my life, may it be a life of purity and uprightness. The law of truth be in my mouth and falsehood be not found on my lips; in peace and equity cause me to walk with Thee and to turn many away from iniquity. For the priest's lips are ever to keep knowledge and the law are they to seek from his mouth. Cause me to be Thy messenger, O Lord of Hosts.' (After Mal. ii, 6-7.) Amen."

The dedicatory anthem was sung. Rev. Dr. Isaac M. Wise of Cincinnati delivered the sermon, in which he said: "I rejoice when they say to me, let us go to the house of the Lord," a pious bard of old sang in yonder land of holy song. So I feel, brethren, you rejoice now, when you are assembled in this gorgeous structure to consecrate it to be your tabernacle. Here it stands, at the northern entrance of our country, to proclaim to all, to announce to posterity, Israel is faithful to the eternal God and His law. You rejoice—I feel it—and I rejoice with you on this gala day of the congregation. If we ask for the reason of this marvelous inspiration which comes to all it seems to me, as King David said in his address to the people in behalf of his son Solomon and the temple to be erected (1 Chron. xxix.) "The work is great, for not for man is this palace, but for Almighty God, Jehovah Elohim." So I feel and imagine your joy and your gladness at this solemn moment of dedication worship and rejoice with you in holy harmony. This to me is the appearance of the Shekinah, the fire from heaven descending upon the new altar. This holy inspiration consecrates this palatial temple to a palace erected to Jehovah Elohim, consecrated forever. So may be and remain your souls and hearts consecrated forever to Jehovah Elohim."

Rev. Dr. Machol's address was brief and contained the following points:

"Permit me first to extend to officers and members my hearty congratulations on the erection of this structure, the beauty and splendor of which gives evidence of your energy and liberality. Notwithstanding all assertions to the contrary religion still occupies a high standard in our midst.

"After the Israelites had taken possession of Palestine the two and a half tribes built an altar as a tie which united the different tribes in one great brotherhood. Such a tie is this magnificent edifice. With all the theories of atheism against religion, and the many uses for money in other ways, still churches and synagogues are continually built. Why? Because religion is still a mighty spiritual force. Neither philosophy nor science could accomplish what religion has, in raising man to so high a degree of civilization.

"Not only to religion but to the Jewish religion this temple is dedicated. Who will say Judaism is dead, or the Jew has outlived his mission?"

After reciting the wonderful accomplishments of the Jewish race in the past, he continued: "What is it if we are still misunderstood? We advocated a religion, the basis of which is, 'Love thy neighbor as thyself,' and 'He only may dwell on God's holy mount who walketh uprightly,' and other portions of the scripture. We have been sent into the world to lift up humanity, and for this purpose this temple has been erected.

"You have united in mind and means and this temple has arisen in all its grandeur; but to secure its permanence peace, harmony and religious feeling are desired. Then not only this house, but you yourselves, will be living witnesses to God's glory."

Rabbi Gries read the evening service, the choir responding at intervals. Then an augmented choir sang Mendelssohn's "How Lovely are the Messengers" and the congregation was dismissed with the benediction.

Memorial service will be held at 10 a. m. today.

The general description of the building may be given thus: The main entrance is on Willson avenue, where three heavy oak swinging doors lead into a large vestibule, from which are entrances to the auditorium. Two stairways lead to the galleries from the front vestibule, one at each end.

The stained glass windows are all of the finest material. The system of electric lighting in the auditorium and, in fact,

throughout the building is of the best. Arrangements are made for the use of either gas or electricity.

Another entrance is from Central avenue and the door is similar to those on the front. This entrance leads into a broad and spacious lobby. On the west of it is the auditorium and on the east the library, ladies' parlor and trustees' room. The ladies' parlor is elegantly furnished. The linen and toilet rooms are in the southeast corner. At the south end of the lobby a stairway leads to the second story of the east portion of the building. There are located the sabbath school and class rooms and also the rabbi's study, which has an entrance opening into the pulpit platform. The choir lobby is also on this floor and a door opens into the choir gallery. The sabbath school room is large and nearly square. Large class rooms adjoin it. The chairs are not stationary but on social occasions the floor can easily be cleared.

The lot on which the magnificent temple is erected has an area of 100 by 150 feet and the building occupies most of the space. The material used is solid stone and the design is beautiful. Lehman & Schmitt are the architects.