



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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

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

Box	Folder	Item
4	9	7

“Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Address,” 1917.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

[1917]

To the Executive Board and Members of The Temple:

Twenty-five years will soon be completed since, with the enthusiasm and energy of youth, I came to The Temple and to Cleveland. Those twenty-five years have been crowded with eventful experiences, with ^{un}increasing endeavor, and, may it not be said with modesty and truth, have been crowded ^{on} with a full measure of achievement and genuine success.

The Temple's membership, which numbered 125, has increased 500%, to more than 700. The children of the Sabbath School, numbering 80, have increased 1000% to nearly 900, making the largest School in any Jewish Congregation in the world. More than 1000 boys and girls have been confirmed, forming an Alumni Association with wonderful possibilities. The Women's Association, in useful service and activity, is, I believe, first in rank among the Temple Sisterhoods of the country.

It is a source of profound gratification to record that The Temple has won an honored place among the congregations of the land, by reason of its spirit and service, its initiative and originality in plans and policies and because of its marvelous story of constant growth and activity. The Temple is recognized as "The Open Temple", open for worship to all, open for instruction to all, open for fellowship with all.

The important tasks and the epochal development of the immediate future, will demand from your Rabbi, ^{un}increasing labor ^{with} undiminished strength.

I have long and carefully considered the step I am about to take, and had not family sorrow intervened, I would have communicated my purpose to you last season. For manifest cause, I would still further delay this declaration of my resolution, but my duty to you and myself compels this present announcement.

Twenty-five years I have lived a public life and for the public, with little thought of self and family. Now, in justice to myself and in fulfillment of my duty to my wife and children, it is wise that I choose a life less public. It is imperative that I secure Freedom from the drive, pressure and tension of my present life, and particularly from the strain and excitement incident to the enthusiasm of preaching, and the earnestness of public address.

I have resolved, at the end of this 25th season's service with The Temple, to retire from The Temple pulpit and from the Ministry. Holding sacred the memory of the first religious service following the dedication of The Temple, namely, the Confirmation and the blessing of your children, it is my desire to end my public ministry on next Confirmation, with the blessing of the children.

It has been the joy of my life to serve, and I hope to be privileged to continue a life of useful service, as a layman in our community and in the City of Cleveland.

I rejoice that it has been my good fortune to participate in the life of The Temple and of Cleveland, during the epochal years of their transformation.

I rejoice in the new, progressive spirit of our community, in its deepened social enthusiasm, and in its firmer grasp and larger understanding of philanthropic and educational problems. I rejoice in The Temple's leadership and helpful co-operation, in its inspiring public service as an organization, and, through its representative individuals, in its moral force for the nobler civic life of Cleveland, and in its influence for true religious liberty, for genuine liberalism in religion, and for sincere fellowship among men.

To the Officers and to the members of The Temple, may I express my sincere gratitude for 25 years of perfect trust and confidence, and for twenty-five years of earnest and enthusiastic co-operation.

May The Temple ever continue the Exponen
a sincere, progressive and liberal Judaism - with the blessing of God.

(Signed) Moses J. Gries

New Year's Eve 5677

September 27, 1916

