

She was touched by the Civil War, was often moved to intense sectional loyalty, and made a commendable contribution to meliorating the suffering occasioned by the conflict. She lent a strong hand to the preservation of Judaism, its accommodation to the American scene, and the general acculturation of the Jew in the larger community. She was a personage to whom the religious and journalistic leaders felt that they had to appeal for support and exertion of influence, a personage never to be discounted in their plans and enterprises. There are signs of "break-throughs" from her age-long restrictions under traditional, patriarchal family patterns. The American Jewess had taken the first tentative, but certain, steps on the road to emancipation, complete Americanization, and equality — in the home and the synagogue, in both the Jewish and the larger communities.

The English in America

These are the sons of them who gave us speech,
 Who sounded on our hills the clarion
 Of freedom: who in deathless years toiled on
 To make a people. Theirs it was to teach
 New-risen lands beyond the ultimate reach
 Of antique wisdom how the soul is won,
 And now, the immortal labor nobly done,
 Shall at our churlish gates their sons beseech?

Nay, as we reverence ourselves, thrust wide
 These gates, lest it be said to shame that we
 Forget the gifts of England and her name;
 Mother of many nations that abide
 Thy sons unquestioned must our brethren be,
 As ours the glory of thy sacred fame!

LUDWIG LEWISOHN, 1907