

## War on Lodge Street

*It was not only between the Union and the Confederacy that civil war was still raging in 1865. The strife between Jews committed to a strict construction of the Jewish heritage and Jews who wished to develop a liberal religious viewpoint involved no bloodshed — but that is not the least of the miracles which have punctuated the American Jewish experience!*

*The Cincinnati “fromme shuhl,” mentioned below, was an Orthodox congregation a block up Lodge Street from the Reform-oriented Bene Yeshurun Congregation. Bene Yeshurun’s rabbi, Isaac Mayer Wise, had published a revised — and more liberal — prayer book entitled Minhag America (“The American Rite”), and what the Orthodox thought of Rabbi Wise’s liturgical effort is abundantly clear from the newspaper item reprinted below. What the Reformers thought of the Orthodox is also abundantly clear.*

CINCINNATI. — We have been credibly informed that a certain Mr. Wolf and Mr. Isaacs, two members of the *fromme Shuhl* on Lodge street, between Sixth and Seventh, one day last week attended worship there, when not being supplied with prayer-books, a gentleman offered them, no doubt through mistake, two *Minhag Americas*. They had no sooner discovered it than, fired by a holy and righteous indignation, they threw them aside. But as it is customary to supply each attendant [worshipper], who may be without one, with a prayer-book, a gentleman rose, picked up the discarded *Tefilloth* [prayer books], and politely handed them to those men who, in the true spirit of orthodoxy, at once consigned these sacrilegious books to the flames in the stove. — We congratulate the *fromme* congregation to such pious members, and only regret that their piety is not fully appreciated in this wicked age. We, however, offer the sum of two cents for their respective photographs each, but must request the artist to take special care of their [jackass] ears, which we shall want in life size, and therefore will allow him, if one sheet be not large enough, to make use of two, rather than see the most important and prominent part of their head marred.

T. B.

[*The Israelite* (Cincinnati), January 13, 1865]