

**JEWISH FESTIVAL OF PURIM.**—On Wednesday evening, the members of the Jewish race celebrated the festival of Purim, which is held in commemoration of the deliverance of the Israelites from the wickedness of Haman, through the intervention of Mordercai and Esther. The history of the causes which led to the festival are narrated in the "Book of Ester." There are no special religious duties enjoined to be observed on this day. The distinction from the usual service being that in the Synagogues the Book of Esther is read on the eve, and on the morning of the festival. For many years it used to be the custom when the name of Haman was mentioned by the reader of chasan, for the congregation to stamp with their feet, thus expressing their desire to trample upon all such monsters. But whether it is that Haman has been trodden out of existence, or that the rising generation are averse to violent exercise, this custom has fallen into disuse.

This festival is observed in a joyful manner, and is incumbent upon every Israelite to give sufficient of his worldly goods to his poorer neighbor, to enable him to be joyful also, and spend a "Merry Purim." It is the custom among the younger portions of the Israelitish community to go out in masked parties at the feast of Purim, and call at the houses of the wealthy Hebrews, where similar parties and good cheer await all comers.

### The Feast of Purim.

The magnificent auditorium of the Temple of the Washington Hebrew congregation presented a pleasing scene last night, the occasion being the celebration of the Feast of Purim, "Therefore the Jews made the 14th day of the month, Adar, a day of gladness and feasting and a good day, and of sending portions one to the other"—Esther IX., v., 19. The exercises of the evening were opened with regular evening services and the reading of the "Megillah." These being concluded, the large assemblage proceeded to celebrate the Feast of Purim according to the following programme :

Organ voluntary; introductory remarks, Rev. L. Stern; address to the children of the Sabbath-school, by L. Abraham; hymn by the choir; reading of the Book of Esther by the following pupils and teachers: Pupils—Misses Pauline Baum, Amelia Oppenheimer, Bertha Bion, Bertha Oppenheimer and Beulah Siegel, and Masters Myer Cohen, Maurice Adler, Maurice Rosenberg, David Solomon and Samuel King. Teachers—Misses Cora Adler, Fannie Rosenberg, Jennie Oppenheimer, Messrs. Simon Wolf and Lewis Abraham.

During the reading, the various scenes of the book of Esther were illustrated by cartoons painted in the presence of the audience, by Leop. Freund and Alex Abraham, artists. An "Historical Purim Song," dedicated to the pupils of the Sabbath-school, composed and arranged to Hebrew melodies, by Rev. L. Stern, was sung by a choir selected from the junior classes. Simon Wolf delivered an address, and a juvenile auxiliary board of the Alliance Universelle was formed. The exercises were concluded with selections from the oratorio of "Esther," by Temple Choir, assisted by the young ladies of the confirmation class.

# PURIM TO BE OBSERVED.

## Jewish Exercises Sunday at Eighth Street Temple.

The festival of Purim, one of the principal Jewish celebrations, will be observed at the Eighth Street Temple next Sunday with a Sunday school function. The exercises will consist of dramatic renditions and vocal selections.

The word Purim means "Lots," and is so called because Haman drew lots to decide on what day the Jews of Persia were to be exterminated. This festival emphasizes the lesson that those who plot harm to others in the end will suffer themselves.