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OPENING OF THE BRADFOED JEWISH SYNAGOGUE.

To-day will witness the performance of an interesting event in the history of the Hebrew Race in Bradfend, which whilst it will be especially momentous to the Jewish community, will also not be altogether uninteresting to the general public. The consecration of the Synagogue, which during the past twelve menths has been in course of erection in Bowland Street, will take place according to the ritual of the Ancient People, and for the first time in the local history of the sect the Jews will be able to worship in a tabernacle of their own according to the traditions of the Hebrew religion. The existence of Jews among the population of Bradford reaches rather more than half a century back, when Bradford was not much larger than a respectable sized market town. The late Mr J. A. Unna was the patriarch of the race, and his arrival in the town some sixty years ago was followed by the appearance of others until the number had increased to a considerable extent. The German emigrants who found their way to Bradford included many who belonged to the Hebrew faith. The cause of Judaism was not then financially strong, although the numbers who professed it as their religious faith continually increased. A bond of sympathy always, however, existed, although they were not able to make any outward demonstration of their existence and strength. Some of the leaders usually met together for the solemnisation high festivals, and occasionally for other devotional purposes, but the fact that there was no Rabbi nor tabernacle rendered the services of a very simple character. Things went on in this way for many years, but the steady increase in the German population naturally led to an augmentation in the numbers of the Jewish body to such an extent that some eleven years ago the Chief Rabbi of the orthodox congregations of England, the Rev. Dr. Adler, visited Pradford for the purpose of inducing the formation of a Jewish religious organisation. Nothing, however, resulted from the conference held, but three years later, on the 1st of April, 1873, it was decided to form what has since been known as "The Jewish Association of Bradford." The first work of the committee of this association was to buy a portion of the Scholemoor Cemetery which might be set apart for the burial of Jews, and this was accomplished for the sum of £800. The success attending this, their first effort, was sufficient to induce the committee to secure the services of a regular Rabbi, who should conduct the services in the Masonic Hall, Salem Street, which had been secured for the use of that body. ministrations of the Rev Dr Strauss were secured, and he entered on his labours the November following the formation of the association. The late MrCharles Semon and the late Mr Charles Calmann were two of the most liberal contributors to the funds of the Association and without their hele and that of other warm

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formation of the association. The late Mrcharles Semon and the late Mr Charles Calmann were two of the most liberal contributors to the funds of the Association, and without their help and that of other warm friends who generally followed their example, the work would have been very seriously hampered indeed. Regular services have since been held thereion Sabbath days and the festivals, and the children have been instructed with the principles and history of their religion, and in Hebrew, the language of their prayers. The building was soon found not to be suitable for public worship, and this cause perhaps was one of the reasons that some three years ago induced the Association to discuss the feasibility of erecting a Synagogue. Subscriptions were solicited, when the sum of £1,400 had raised Mr Bernard Cohen, of the firm Messrs Charles Semon and Co., came forward and offered a site in Bowland Street, which cost £700. The offer was accepted, and the plans were prepared by Messrs Healey, architects, of this town. The preliminary work of turning the first sod was performed on the 5th of January of last year, and on the 6th of April following the interesting ceremony of laying the foundation stone took place, that act being performed by the late Mr Unna. The work of erection has gone on continuously till now, when the Synagogue is completed and ready for use. The erection of such a building in Bradford is a somewhat remarkable event in the history of the town, and a description of the edifice may be found interesting.

The Synagogue is situate on the south side of Bowland Street, and is a very suitable site for the erection of such a superstructure. It consists of one large room 44 feet by 30 feet, and 27 feet in height, entered on the west from a broad lobby containing double doors to exclude the draught and the noise of traffic; and also giving access to the back portion of the premises. At the east end is a semi-circular recess or alcove, 12 feet in width, arched and vaulted, in which stands the Holy Ark, containing the scrolls of the law. The Ark is spanned by an arch of horse-shoe outline, with elaborate arabesques in plaster in the spandrels, and bound by a double border. The Ark is of Caen stone, rectangular in plan; it rests on a richlypanelled dado, and the door is surmounted by a cusped Moorish arch springing from pilasters of red Devonshire marble. The tympanum of the arch is filled with pierced interlaced work, and the spandrels arabesques; on the upper enriched with frieze are incised the words, in Hebrew-"Hear, O Israel, the Eternal is our God, the Eternal is One." The whole is surmounted by a carved cornice and dome, to the front of which two tablets of white marble are fixed, on which are incised, in Hebrew, the Ten Commandments.

Suspended from the ceiling, and on silver chains, is a massive perpetual lamp of elegant design, with a suitable inscription taken from Exodus xxvii., 20. It is the gift of Mr Emil Bielefele, one of the wardens.

The floor of this alcove is raised by several steps above the level of the main floor, and on a platform extending along the sides and in front stands the pulpit and deak. A small vestry is obtained on the north side of the recess with an outer doorway to Bowland Street, and on the south side is placed a staircase

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The following have been the contractors for the execution of the various works: Messrs Thos. Obank and Sons, Idle, masons; Wm. Newall, joiner; Messrs Walton and Brear, plumbers; Messrs T. Cordingley and Sons, plasterers; Messrs Hill and Nelsons, staters, and Mr Edward Harland, painter. Messrs Healey were the architects, and Mr W. Ashton, of

Bradford, carred the Ark.

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