Emma Lazarus

Voice of a Nation
Why Emma Lazarus?

• ALA grant: *Emma Lazarus: Voice of Liberty, Voice of Conscience*
Emma’s Background

- Family History
- Jewish Identity
Emma’s Writings

Songs of a Smile: The Dance to Death, and Other Poems,

EMMA LAZARUS, AUTHOR OF "ADMETUS, AND OTHER POEMS," "ALIDE," "TRANSLATIONS FROM HEINE," ETC.

Price, in paper. Twenty-five cents.

"Cloth Fifty cents.

This volume contains "The Dance to Death," a tragedy in five acts, and other poems which have recently appeared in "The American Hebrew," as well as several Judeo poems by this gifted author, which have now, hitherto, been presented in permanent form, and will include a number of Translations from the mediaval Spanish, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and other languages. Miss Lazarus's latest poem, "The New Year," written for the Rosh Hashanah (New Year) number of "The American Hebrew." The volume is printed on fine, tinted paper, and has a large, clear type.

NOTICES OF THE PRESS.

"... We give a hearty welcome to Miss Lazarus, whose book has been a thorough success. We made it up with the greatest difficulty, when we saw that the first poem was 'Admetus,'..." - "The New York Times."

"The volume is full of admirable things.... The chief poems are all good. She is altogether a fine poet, with a fine display of force. Her subtilety is marked, and she leaves no thought uncondemned. There is something—and not much—wanting to complete the character and place her alongside of the masters...." - "Christian Union."

"... 'Admetus' is a fine poem. We catch now and then a Tennessean echo in the verse, but there are no feeble lines, and passages both of description and dialogue are full of emotion. Emma Lazarus is like "a rose that blooms," in American poetry. "Admetus" is not the work of a "pretended hand." - "The New York American."

"A few recent volumes of verse compare favorably..."

"Alide; An Episode from Goethe's Life."

TRANSLATIONS FROM HEINE.

Emma’s Writings is in sympathy with the author's most subtle thoughts and fancies. - "The Critic."

... The renderings from the original are remarkably close, and enjoy the same freedom from involution or straining for effect that makes most of Heine's works limpid and places some of it at the very front of German literature. - "The Century Magazine."

"..."
An Atypical Woman of her Times
A SENSATION AT SARATOGA.

Tuesday, May 15th, 1877.

NEW RULES FOR THE GRAND UNION.

NO JEWS TO BE ADMITTED—MR. SELIGMAN, THE BANKER, AND HIS FAMILY SENT AWAY—HIS LETTER TO MR. HILTON—GATHERING OF MR. SELIGMAN'S FRIENDS—AN INDIGNATION MEETING TO BE HELD.

On Wednesday last Joseph Seligman, the well-known banker of this city, and member of the syndicate to place the government loan, visited Saratoga with his wife and family. For 10 years next he has spent the Summer at the Grand Union Hotel. His family entered the parlors, and Mr. Seligman went to the manager to make arrangements for rooms. That gentleman seemed somewhat confused, and said: "Mr. Seligman, I am required to inform you that Mr. Hilton has given instructions that no Israelites shall be permitted in future to stop at this hotel."

Mr. Seligman was so astonished that for some time he could make no reply. Then he said: "Do you mean to tell me that you will not entertain Jewish people?" "That is our orders, Sir," was the reply.

Before leaving the banker asked the reason why Jews were thus persecuted. Said he, "Are they dirty, do they misbehave themselves, or have they refused to pay their bills?"

"Oh, no," replied the manager, "there is no fault to be found in that respect. The reason is simply this: Business at the hotel was not good last season, and we had a large number of Jews here. Mr. Hilton came to the conclusion that Christians did not like their company, and for that reason shunned the hotel. He resolved to run the Union on a different principle this season, and gave us instructions to admit no Jew." Personally he [the manager] was very sorry, insomuch as Mr. Seligman had patronized the hotel for so many years, but the order was imperative.

Mr. Seligman felt outraged, and returned to New York.
Jewish Immigrants during Emma’s lifetime
Emma’s response

The spontaneous action of the prominent citizens of London and New York, without distinction of creed, in protest against the Russian atrocities committed upon the Jews, happily renders unnecessary any denunciation on the part of a Jewess. In the April number of The Century Magazine, Ragozin set forth the "Russian side" of the question, which appears to her sufficient explanation of a state of affairs characterized by the London "Times" as "a scene of horrors that have hitherto only been perpetrated in medieval days during times of war." Murder, rape, arson, one hundred thousand families reduced to homeless beggary, and the destruction of eighty million dollars’ worth of property,—such in few words, are the acts for which an excuse is sought. The perusal of a single book, that of Mr. Jacob Brinham, Jewish apostate in the pay of the Russian Government, forever demolished, in her mind, the fallacy that the Christians have been persecuting the Jews, and has established in its stead the conspicuous fact that the Jews have been always, and still are, persecuting the Christians, especially in Russia. This great truth—that a handful of wretched Jews are "undermining the well-being" of the largest empire of the globe,—Ragozin is confident will commend itself to the acceptance of all unprejudiced minds.

Let us first disabuse our readers of the sophistical distinction made by Mme. Ragozin, in common with many other writers, between the "two kinds of Jews," and the idea that "a vast dualism essentially characterizes this extraordinary race." Behind this subtle error lurk all the dangers that have threatened the existence of the people, for whatever calamities be inflicted by a Jewish spokesman, the answer is ever ready: "These charges do not apply to you, and such as you. But how can you be sure that such outrages are not committed by some turbulent sect of your tribe?" Now, we are sure of the Jews—no, perhaps, than of any other...
The Immigration Experience
The New Colossus
Pre-Zionism
Emma’s Voice in the Modern World
Why is Emma’s story little known?
Modern Immigration Experiences

[Image of a cartoon showing a police officer pointing a gun at the Statue of Liberty with the text: 'DROP EVERYTHING AND LEMME SEE SOME IDENTIFICATION!!']