

This touching ceremonial which we have witnessed, with the presentation of a SEPHER TORAH, has engendered many thoughts in our minds. Thoughts of ages long ago, when let the Torah became the monument of Israel's mission; the very symbol of the life and survival of the Jew and his membership to the

"Kingdom of priests and holy nation".

Yes, the Jew remembers his acceptance of that specific discipline and conduct of life and includes all those teachings which have come to us, from the very Mr. of Sinai through The Rabbits and Sages and poets, right down to the most recent reflection upon man's duty to his God and to his fellow-men.

And it is also a generally accepted principle

that the author of a religious act is the one who finishes the act, and it may therefore be said, that

today, before our very eyes, a new edition of a SEPHER TORAH has seen the light, and those who were privileged to come forward and fill in the 1st letters, may be regarded as having written it for: - (Yoreh Deah 270, 1)

That commandment is only called a MITZVAH, to him who has completed it".

Yes, friends, these thoughts are in our minds today because this Book of all ages.. this ageless Book is changeless, original and unique. Not the creation of any human fancy, but rather a creative force and an active moulder of the minds of men in all generations. As so beautifully put: it is not a Book but a literature; not a literature but life itself.. full, real, unflattered life, given to men to love, yea to suffer and to aspire.

It is this very uniqueness, this unmutability that is the very essence of the Jew and the secret weapon of our preservation as members of the Eternal people of Israel. Therefore is our joy enhanced to-day, when ~~another~~ another Scroll of the Torah has entered this House of God, coming as it did to this very Community to serve the need of its people.

BUT, my friends, let us beware of thinking that this Torah shall just remain another emblem in the imagination of men, merely to ~~xxxxx~~ satisfy the theorists of