

SAYS WAR WILL CHANGE CREEDS

Rabbi Lefkovits Predicts Readjustment of Christianity to Ideas of Judaism.

REPLIES TO CRITICISMS OF CHRISTIAN CLERGYMEN

Makes Address an Answer to Attacks of One Clergyman's Sermon.

One outstanding effect of the European war, according to Rabbi Maurice Lefkovits, will be a readjustment of Christian creeds and the faith, in time to come, will embody only that which is now advocated by the doctrines of Judaism.

This prediction, Rabbi Lefkovits, at the regular service in Temple Emanuel last night, made in the course of remarks designed as a reply to criticisms by Christian clergymen and laymen, which has come as the result of the rabbi's sermon Christmas night on "War On Earth and Ill Will to Men."

Rabbi Lefkovits, in undertaking to vindicate the truth of the statements objected to, confined his reply to the criticisms of one clergyman.

Quotes New Testament.

He denied that he had characterized Christians as blasphemers and hypocrites. Disposing of the indictment of his immoderate language, the rabbi referred his critics to passages in the New Testament which quote Jesus as having arraigned those who angered him as "ravenous wolves," and, again, as "offspring of vipers."

Has Christianity ever dominated any one country, state or city, and has it, in any age, had the support of worldly advantages? This question, put by the clergyman-critic, Rabbi Lefkovits answered unqualifiedly in the affirmative. Christianity, he declared, dominates this country and many others—its spirit prevails in this state and in this city; it has had the support through the ages of armies and navies, directed by czars, emperors and kings, he maintained.

Only four wars of conquest were waged by Jews during their 1,400 years of life as a nation in Palestine, the rabbi pointed out. This assertion was in contradiction of the charge that Jews, as a people, were quarrelsome, or had unusual strife among themselves.

"They had dissensions within their own nation; they practiced idolatry; there were formalists among them; but—all of these things were true of the Jews much less than of Christians," the rabbi contended.

Rabbi Lefkovits, reiterating his charge that the creeds of Christianity have not been, and never will be, productive of peace and good will said that this was so because Christianity stands or falls on the creed of

faith which requires that all who are to be saved believe in Christ as the son of God.

"This creed, fulfilled would damn two-thirds of humanity," Rabbi Lefkovits said. "It is not just, because a bad man might, at death's door, obtain salvation by acknowledging the faith, while a good one, unable conscientiously to do so, would be denied salvation. Such an unjust arrangement could not promote peace and good will."

After a tribute to the loyalty and perseverance with which he credited the Jewish people in adhering to their faith through the centuries, despite persecution, Rabbi Lefkovits said that his recent arraignment had not been of the "Christianity of Jesus, but of that of the church."