

unexpected quarter—viz.: In the archives of imperial Rome. It is in the form of a Roman Senator on the observances in Jerusalem of the Day of Atonement and the seven Days preceding it. The discoverer of the manuscript translated it from the original Latin into Hebrew and German. From the latter language I have had the pleasure of rendering it into English.

The existence of the document is known to a very limited number of persons, none of whom, I am convinced, are Chapter Masons, and possessing, as it does, the intrinsic merit of a comparatively recent revelation, in addition to furnishing a key to the unknown, and a confirmation of the known, I hasten to transmit it to you, my worthy companions, in the full expectation that you will appreciate its importance and my humble efforts. Rendering unto Cæsar what is Cæsar's, it would be a simple act of justice to state that to Dr. Solomon Virgo, a great historian, who flourished in the twelfth century, we owe the discovery of the document. Dr. Virgo, however, was either apathetic in regard to it, or failed to estimate its great importance; unnoticed and uncared for, it was handed down from the twelfth to the present century, until it was, in a measure, resuscitated by one of the greatest *savans* of modern times, while delving in the mines of ancient lore. I allude to Moses Ladau. He was a citizen of Prague, and died about the year 1850, ripe in years and honors. He was the leading Orientalist of our century, but his studies were not confined to the Eastern and ancient, but included most of all the modern languages, in all of which he expressed himself with equal proficiency as a profound prose and poetry writer.

With these preparatory remarks I claim your indulgence for the following translation:—

"The second service which I attended was the entry into the sanctuary. I observed nothing of the actual divine service on the Day of Atonement, but I was an eye-witness to the before mentioned entry into the sanctuary and departure from it; the sight of which amazed me to such a degree that I was impelled to praise the Almighty that He had imparted to those pious people a portion of His glory. Seven days prior to the, to them, most important and distinguished day, which they call the Day of Atonement, seats had been prepared in the house of the high priest for the dignitaries of the church, princes, the leaders of the priests and for the King, in addition to seventy silver seats for the seventy senators. As soon as these had all assembled the senior priest arose and addressed the following exhortation to the high priest: Mark well before whom you are about to appear and reflect that you might fall to earth a corpse should you allow your devotional thoughts to become distracted, in addition to which the atonement of all Israel would count for naught; the eyes of the whole world are centred upon you; examine your conduct; how easily may you have committed a transgression, which to all appearance was a trivial one, but which who can tell, might outweigh many meritorious actions, as the judgement of sins and rewards is reserved to the Almighty. Examine and purify also your brothers, the priests; consider that you are to appear before the King of Kings, seated upon His throne, and holding all evil in abomination! Would you appear before Him with an impure spirit? He replied, that he had not only performed penance for any transaction he may have committed himself, but that he had also assembled all his brother priests in the sacred halls, where he had conjured them in the name of Him to whom the temple was dedicated (God), to confess their own sins and everything which had come to their knowledge regarding their colleagues, adding that he had already allotted the proper penances for each transaction. The King also addressed the high priest in a very friendly manner, and in order to raise his spirits promised that he would bestow marks of honor upon him as soon as he would leave the sanctuary after the conclusion of divine service. After the proclamation was made that the high priest was on the point of entering into his chamber in the sanctuary; at which all approached to escort him thither. I observed the following procession proceeding him: In advance were all those who were of royal Israelite descent, those following and nearer to the high priest, were always of higher ranks; after them followed the descendants of the kings of David in proper order, before whom a herald proclaimed: 'Give honor to the house of David!'—then followed the Levites, before whom a herald proclaimed: 'Give honor to the house of Levi!'—there were thirty-six thousand of them; their leaders on this occasion were clothed in blue silk garments, but the priests, of which there were twenty-four thousand, were clothed in white silk; then followed the singers, then the musicians, then the trumpeters, then the door-keepers, then those who prepare the incense, then the curtain-makers, then the guard of honor, then the treasurer, then a band of scribes or recorders, then all the other stewards or administrators of the sanctuary, then the seventy senators, then one hundred priests, with silver axes with which to clear room, then finally, then the high priest accompanied by all the senior priests, two by two. On all the street corners stood the chief teachers of high schools,