

Jewish mind is, and how disproportioned their intellectual capacity for judging of evidence is, compared with that virulency which they bear to the salvation of the gospel. I may mention an instance of their intellectual debasement. They turned up Deut. vi. 8, 9, they asked me if I knew what *Mezezut* was—I pointed to the door post, they accordingly led me to the door, and shewed me a piece of tin, under which a piece of paper or parchment, which contained part of the law was nailed, and they evidently took great merit to themselves, for being so obedient to the law. I was silent, for truly it seemed to me, as if the delusion of death had settled over them. One of them told me, that they also wore them as frontlets between the eyes, but I forgot to enquire farther into this. I had asked them several times if they would join in prayer with me, but they always refused; I then asked them if they would

pray with me, using the 51st Psalm; after some scruples they seemed to agree. I accordingly rose, and read the Psalm as a prayer, but they did not appear from their manner, to enter into the sentiment. I had observed on other occasions, a total absence of every feeling. They appear to have scarcely any other notion of religious worship, than as a mere round of forms, and in these they seem to deem it enough, if they conn over the original Hebrew.

Having thus laid before your readers the account of my conversations with these Jews, I have only to entreat, that every true follower of Christ, who knows what a glorious salvation that is, of which he is a partaker, will unite their fervent prayers that unbelief may be turned away from the children of Jacob, and that they may be led to rejoice in their Saviour and Lord.

#### THE REVEREND MATTHEW WILKS.

The Rev. MATTHEW WILKS, minister of the Tabernacle in the City Road, and of Tottenham Court Road Chapel, was, for about half a century, one of the best known preachers in London. He came to town in early life, and soon raised himself to that distinguished station among the religious portion of the community, which he ever afterwards maintained till the hour of his death. In glancing therefore at some of the great and good men whose lives were chiefly spent in preaching the gospel of Christ in London, it were an unpardonable oversight did I omit to give some notice of such a man as Matthew Wilks. There were various traits of minor interest in his character which I must pass over; contenting myself with a reference to a few of the more prominent and important ones; and even to them, I must not advert at any length.

Mr. Wilks had the reputation of being a singularly shrewd man in perceiving the real character of individuals, as well as one whose judgment might be more relied on in matters of a secular nature, than that perhaps of any of his contemporary brethren in the ministry. It has been mentioned in private by those friends who had an opportunity of knowing something on the subject, that the result of the credit he had obtained for possessing an unusually sound judgment, was his being consulted, in the course of his long ministerial career, in the making of a greater number of wills, and his being appointed one of the executors of such wills, than any other man of his day. A great many cases consist with my own knowledge, derived from private sources of information, in which he was consulted by dissenting ministers in circumstances of difficulty, in

preference to any other person they knew; and, so far as my knowledge, derived from these peculiar sources of information, extends, the advice he gave was in almost every instance, as the result proved, the wisest and best that could have been tendered to the parties soliciting it. I could name, but for obvious reasons I forbear to do so, some cases in which, through his judicious counsel and friendly interposition, ministers of the gospel (some of them still living, and among the most popular preachers of the day) were enabled triumphantly to vindicate their character when unjustly and artfully assailed in a vital part; and who but for that advice and interposition must assuredly have fallen victims to the combined ingenuity and malevolence of their enemies.

Of his shrewdness in detecting hypocrisy and discerning the true points of one's character, innumerable instances are recorded in private circles. As their name is legion, I will not particularize any of them; but will, on the contrary, mention one instance in which his wonted shrewdness failed him, and he became the easy dupe of an ingenious swindler. The party in this case having ascertained that a certain old rich gentleman, lately returned from abroad, had become one of Mr. Wilks' hearers, and was sufficiently known to him by name, though Mr. Wilks was unacquainted with his hand-writing,—drew out, one morning, a cheque for one hundred pounds, in the name of the gentleman, on a bank in which the latter had no money; and putting on the clothes of a footman, he called on Mr. Wilks and handed him the cheque which was enclosed in a sheet of paper, intimating the wish of the donor, that it should be given to the funds of a