

that profound knowledge of them which subsequently won him so prominent a place among scholars. Having been offered the position of Rabbi of the Spanish and Portuguese Jewish Congregation of Montreal he accepted the call, and arrived in this city in the beginning of 1847, and here, for over thirty-five years, he continued to minister to the spiritual wants of his people. His able pulpit discourses soon attracted attention. Dr. de Sola's abilities, however, were not destined to be confined exclusively to his official duties. Before leaving London he had been associated in the editorial work of a Hebrew journal, *The Voice of Jacob*, and soon after his arrival in Canada he delivered a course of lectures on Jewish history before the Mercantile Literary Association. In 1848, he published his "Notes on the Jews of Persia Under Mohammed Shah," and also "A History of the Jews of Persia." Within the same year there appeared his important work on "Scripture Zoology." Soon afterwards he published his "Lectures on the Mosaic Cosmogony." This was followed by his "Cosmography of Peritsol," a work displaying such erudition that it gained a wide circulation in Europe, and was reprinted there in several languages. His next work, "A Commentary upon Samuel Hannagid's Introduction to the Talmud," was a book which deservedly attracted much attention, owing to the light which it threw upon an interesting portion of rabbinical literature, and to its depth of Talmudic knowledge. In 1853 he published, conjointly with the Rev. J. J. Lyons, of New York, a work on the Jewish Calendar System, chiefly valuable on account of its excellent prefatory treatise upon the Jewish system of calculating time.

Dr. de Sola's mastery of Semitic languages and literature early attracted the notice of our learned bodies, and, after first acting as lecturer, he was, in 1853, appointed Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Literature at McGill University. The high abilities which he displayed as occupant of this chair proved the wisdom of the appointment, and he continued to hold the position during the rest of his life.

For some time Dr. de Sola had been engaged in the preparation of one of his most important productions, "The Sanatory Institutions of the Hebrews." The work was published in two parts, and was an exhaustive exposition of the hygienic laws of the Hebrews, as exhibited in both Scriptural and rabbinical writings, critically examined in the light of modern scientific knowledge. It was a production which evinced how deeply the author had penetrated into scientific as well as rabbinical paths of learning. Shortly afterwards he published a supplemental work to it, entitled "Behemoth Hatemeoth."

The prominence to which Dr. de Sola had now reached among men of letters led McGill University to confer upon him the degree of LL.D. in 1858.

In 1860, Dr. Hall, the editor of *The British American Journal*, devoted to physical and medical science, induced Dr. de Sola to assist that publication with his pen, and, among other contributions, his series of articles "Upon the employment of Anæsthetics in cases of Labor, in connection with Jewish Law," call for particular mention.

Dr. de Sola's wide range of studies had made him very popular both as a public lecturer and as a contributor to various literary papers. The themes of some of these