

and charged with having relapsed into Judaism. Although placed under the most fearful tortures nothing seems to have been proved, as he was allowed to afterwards go free ; but he was physically broken down by his terrible sufferings. Escape from the country by a suspect was then extremely difficult, but in the next generation his son, Aaron de Sola, managed to secure refuge on board a British Man-of-War, and to make good his escape with his family to England ; not, however, before two of his relatives had been imprisoned, tortured and condemned to death at an *auto da Fé*, by the Inquisition, for secret adherence to Judaism.

It was in 1749, that Aaron de Sola fled with his wife and family to England, and now that they were freed from the terrors of the Inquisition they openly avowed once more their loyalty to the faith of their fathers. From England they took passage for Holland, where they rejoined their relatives, and taking up their residence in Amsterdam they soon again rose to distinction in the various learned professions.

Previously to this—in the year 1690—one of the preceding generation, Isaac de Sola, had settled in London, and had acquired a high reputation in the Hebrew community there as an eloquent preacher and author. Several volumes of his works are still extant.

Four sons had accompanied Aaron de Sola in his flight from Lisbon in 1749, of whom the eldest, David, was the great-grandfather of the Dr. Abraham de Sola who forms the chief subject of this sketch. The youngest of Aaron de Sola's sons, Dr. Benjamin de Sola, attained to a foremost place among the practitioners of the last century. He was Court Physician to William V. of the Netherlands, and was the author of a large number of medical works. The other two sons of Aaron de Sola settled in Curaçao, and one of them was the grandfather of General Juan de Sola, who became so distinguished as a Commander of Cavalry under Bolivar and Paëz when the South American States revolted from Spain. He took part in the decisive battle of Carabobo, and led the charge on Puerto Cabello when that city was stormed by Paëz, receiving a sabre-wound during the fight. After the restoration of peace he held important public offices during the Paëz régime.

The Reverend Abraham de Sola, LL.D., was born in London, England, on the 18th September, 1825. His father, David Aaron de Sola, was Senior Minister of the Portuguese Jews of London, to which city he had been called from Amsterdam, and was eminent as a Hebrew author, having produced among many other works an elegant translation of the Jewish Forms of Prayer ; also, in conjunction with Dr. Raphall, an edition of Genesis, very valuable to Biblical students on account of its commentaries and copious notes, and the first English translation of Eighteen Treatises of the *Mishna*. His mother was the daughter of Dr. Raphael Meldola, Chief Rabbi of the Spanish-Jewish congregations of Britain. The Meldolas had given eminent Chief Rabbis to Europe for twelve generations. Abraham de Sola received careful tuition in all the usual branches of a liberal education. He became early engrossed in the study of Oriental languages and literature and of theology, and continued to devote his attention to those subjects until he acquired