

**BOX  
18  
FOLDER  
195**

**Speeches and  
Proclamations**

**1911-1913; ud**



UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS  
Dinner at the Hotel Astor,  
January 18th, 1911.

You are representatives from the reformed congregations of Israel throughout the whole country. Israel has always been a growing and advancing religious force. The history of the Jewish race discloses no period in which mere non-essential regulations and forms were not being gradually changed or abandoned in order to keep pace with the teachings of experience or to conform to just local or national manners and usages. But not so in the fundamental tenets of your belief. To that you have remained steadfast through all the ages and dispersed throughout all the different climes and peoples of the earth. You have brought down to us in an unbroken line from even before the time of Abraham, yea, from that border line where fable scarcely ceases and history hardly begins, the one great lineage and tradition of the world- a pure belief in the one true and ever living God. God the Father and his Providence over all you have given to us a living fact. And from it we realize a universal brotherhood of man, through which the long and inexplicable persecution of the Jews by Christian nations is drawing to a close even in the one remaining Christian nation where it still has a foothold. The Christians inherit from the Jews their belief



in the one God. Jesus was born of the Jewish race.  
We have appropriated to ourselves the entire Jewish  
sacred scriptures, the Old Testament, as we call it.  
And all of the scriptures of our New Testament were  
written by Jews. O brother through a common God!  
We have only to realize these things that there may  
linger in our hearts no feeling against thee.



Have I not been saying over and over, and all along, that the city of New York is the most decent and orderly large city in this country if not in the world? Those people among us who are constantly denouncing New York as the most vicious and wicked city are doing so out of mere propensity to run New York down. I have also said several times of late that taxation in New York city is the lowest of any city in this state, and of any large city in the United States. And yet during the recent campaign it was said from the stump over and over again that we were being overwhelmed with taxation. Those who think New York is such a terrible place ought to move away. We would miss the sound of their cranky voices, but we would be glad to do so. One grasshopper sitting on a fence makes more noise than a herd of cattle in the adjoining field.

Jan. 4, 1912.



June 6th, 1912.M

To the Public:

The German Squadron  
which comes to this city by direction  
of the German Emperor on invitation  
of the Mayor will arrive here on  
Sunday, June 9th, and remain for  
three days, during which time the  
officers and men of the Squadron  
are to be the guests of the city.  
I suggest that during that period  
our citizens decorate their resi-  
dences and places of business in  
honor of the visitors.

*W. J. Gaynor,*  
Mayor.



To the school children of the City of New York on Independence Day, 1912:

Our country is a free country. Our government is a democracy. Democracy is the rule of the people by themselves. The way this is done is as follows: The people enact their own laws. These laws prescribe how they shall be governed. Then the people elect their own officials to carry out or execute these laws. If the number of the whole people were small enough, they could meet in one place, in a big hall or in a field, and enact their laws by their own votes. But as our numbers are too great for that, we divide ourselves up into sections or districts, and each district elects representatives, and all of these representatives meet in what we call the Legislature, and enact our laws. That is a representative democracy. If our laws do not suit us it is because we do not elect persons who carry out our will in the Legislature. That is our own fault, namely, through ignorance or negligence we elect unfit men. And if we elect unfit men to office to carry out or execute our laws, that is in the same way our own fault. The only way, therefore, to have good laws, and good officials to execute them, is by the intelligence and virtue of the people. We therefore spend



immense sums to educate the people. The object is to make them fit to vote. If the people are themselves intelligent and virtuous, they will vote right, and the result will be good laws, good officials of all kinds, and good government. But if the people are not intelligent and virtuous, the result will be the reverse, namely, bad laws, bad officials, and bad government. Now you see why your parents are paying large taxes to educate you. If you and the generations who come after you should lack the necessary intelligence and virtue, then our form of government must come to its downfall. I hope our common schools will postpone indefinitely that fatal hour. The downfall of the rulership of the people by themselves means a return to despotism. Under that form of government which we call despotism, the ruler does as he likes without regard to the people. He arrests them, he locks them up, he takes their lives, he takes their property, to suit himself. We must therefore be vigilant of every little approach of despotism, however little it may be. We must see to it that those whom we elect to office do not go outside of the laws, or set themselves up above the laws, and do as they please. It always has been the case throughout the world that the officials who did this did it on the plea that the laws were not good enough -- that they could do better than



the laws prescribed. Beware of all such officials. We do not want officials who have any lust of power. We want officials who are very careful about exercising power. We want officials who are careful to exercise no power except that given to them by the people by their laws. There is no more dangerous man in a free country, in a democracy, than an official who thinks he is better than the laws. The good man in office should be most careful not to set a bad example or precedent for his bad successor, for the bad successor will come along sooner or later.

On every recurring Independence Day we should seriously consider these things, and consecrate ourselves anew, even upon our knees, to God's will, in the full conviction that His will is that the people shall by their ever growing intelligence and virtue continue to rule themselves, better and better, year after year, forever.

Sincerely yours,

*W. L. Ayer, Jr.*  
M a y o r.



February 17th, 1913.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Mr. Felix Kleeberg is the Director of the Chemical Laboratory of the Borough of Manhattan, City of New York, and is in Europe on an official mission to study the laboratory methods of other cities, particularly with reference to the testing of paving materials. Any introductions furnished, or privileges extended to him which may facilitate his inspection of laboratories and their methods, and of paving operations and pavements in general, will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

*W. H. Taylor*  
Mayor.



TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK:

The appalling loss of life and disasters from wind and flood in the West require that a relief fund be made up for the sufferers. Several citizens have already expressed to me their wish to contribute. I therefore ask the people of the City generally to contribute to such a fund. I know of no respect in which charity could be more worthily bestowed at the present time, and I am sure that the response will be adequate to the occasion. Contributions may be sent to the Mayor's office, or to Jacob H. Schiff, Treasurer of the National Red Cross Society, at No. 54, William Street, or to the office of the National Red Cross Society at 105, East 22nd Street.

*W. A. H. H. H.*  
MAYOR.

March 26th, 1913.



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that  
I, William J. Gaynor, Mayor of the City of New  
York, State of New York, United States of  
America, know of no objection or impediment to  
the marriage of Olga Marie Kolff, daughter of  
Cornelius G. Kolff and Emily P. Kolff of this  
city, to William H. Breyann, Junior, of  
Hamburgh, Germany.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand and  
affixed my seal of office  
this third day of April,  
One thousand nine hundred  
and thirteen.

*W. J. Gaynor,*  
Mayor.



July 31, 1913. v

Permission is hereby granted Joseph Klein, an adult blind person, to maintain and occupy a stand for the sale of newspapers, periodicals and magazines on the Manhattan approach to Williamsburg Bridge, said stand to be located under the trolley shelter east of the stairway at the intersection of Norfolk and Delancey Streets and not to exceed four by six feet in size.

This permit is granted pursuant to the authority given in Section 10 of the General City Law, and is revocable at any time.

W. J. Gaynor

Mayor.



"Yes, during the same period the Germans in this country have been working and expanding in the same way. These here have been doing as much as those left in Germany. They have not only advanced with the nation, but they have helped the nation forward. They have grown here intellectually and industrially the same as in Germany. We all realize the debt that we owe to the Germans in this country. There is one thing I have especially noted since I have been Mayor. If I want to appoint a German to office I have to look for him. They are not office seekers. Recently I wanted to appoint a German Magistrate and I had to drum up a candidate. And on July 1st I shall appoint him. No, I will not now tell you who he is."