

**THE JEWISH FEAST OF CHANUCKA.**  
CELEBRATING A HISTORICAL EVENT—THE  
ACADEMY OF MUSIC CROWDED.

The Jewish Feast of Chanucka, or Feast of Dedication, was celebrated by the Young Men's Hebrew Association, in the Academy of Music, last evening. The feast continues eight days, and yesterday was the closing day. In every Jewish household candles are burned throughout the whole period, one candle being added to the number daily, until on the eighth day eight of them are burning. In the most orthodox families, each male and female member is required to burn candles. The events to which the feast of Chanucka traces its origin occurred in the second quarter of the second century before Christ, or about 2,000 years ago. Judea had been enslaved by the Syrians, and was groaning under the yoke of the oppressor. The Jewish religion was proscribed; the temple at Jerusalem was plundered of its gold and silver vessels, and then dedicated to Jupiter Olympus, and on its altar the flesh of swine was offered up in sacrifice to the Greek god. The whole land was filled with misery and woe. Deliverance finally came in the person of Mattathias, the high priest, whose indignation was so wrought up at witnessing one of his countrymen paying divine honor to a Greek god that he slew both him and the Syrian officer who was urging him to the commission of the idolatrous act. The Jews rallied around Mattathias, and waged a harassing guerrilla warfare against their heathen oppressors. Jerusalem was recaptured, and Judas Maccabeus, at the head of his countrymen, entered the city in triumphal procession. The holy temple was purged and cleansed, and at length, on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kisley, (corresponding to the month of December in our calendar,) it was rededicated to its ancient uses with offerings and prayers of thanksgiving and praise. In commemoration of this event arose the feast which has just been celebrated.

The throng that assembled in the Academy last evening completely filled the building. Every box was sold, among the purchasers and occupants being Jesse Seligman, H. Blum, J. Rosenwald, E. Lehman, M. Lehman, Commissioner Hess, Coroners Ellinger and Hermann, J. Seebacher, Judge David McAdam, A. Wallach, Samuel A. Lewis, S. M. Schafer, J. H. Schiff, Isidore Lindeman, L. Strasburger, H. Nordlinger, S. Bernheimer, A. Rindskopf, Uriah Herman, and A. B. Ansbacher. The evening's entertainment included a series of tableaux, interspersed with Hebrew melodies, the whole followed by a ball. More than 100 children of the Hebrew Orphan Asylum, the girls dressed in white and the boys wearing black suits, sang the melodies to the accompaniment of Downing's musicians. The tableaux were powerful in their conception, and in their execution artistic and brilliant. The figures were costumed after the period of the historical events which were portrayed. The effect of the scenes was intensified by the colored lights which were thrown upon the stage from the electric apparatus in the gallery. The tableaux were six in number, and pictured Judea in mourning, the Syrian General, Appelles, ordering the Jews to worship the statue of Jupiter, the indignant Mattathias slaying the Jew who stepped forward to obey the order, the death of Mattathias, the triumphal procession of virgins, incense-bearers, slaves, and Jewish soldiers into Jerusalem, and, finally, the dedication of the temple itself.

The proceeds of the celebration will be added to the fund of the Young Men's Hebrew Association, one of the most popular Jewish societies in the City

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