

The Wise Son: The Ladies of the London S&P

#3 Lady Judith Montefiore

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"I beg and pray for you not to forget that you are Jews and keep your religion and always have in your memory your father who is in Heaven and take example from him."

Lydia Diamantschleifer Cohen, 1817 Will



1. Moses and Judith Montefiore (?c. 1825–30) (from a picture in the Montefiore scrapbook in the Zionist Central Archives, Jerusalem) [See pp. 287–303]

'I was this day united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Moses Montefiore, whose fraternal and filial affection gained in me an interest and solicitude in his welfare at a very early period of my acquaintance with him, which joined to many other good qualities and attention towards me, ripened into a more ardent sentiment.'

"I did not know any circumstances more pleasing to me than to perceive that my dear Monte is religiously inclined. It is that sort of religion which he possesses that in my opinion is most essential - a fellow feeling and benevolence."

Lady Judith Montefiore , Honeymoon Diary 1812

'I can never be sufficiently thankful to Almighty God for suffering us to reach this city in safety. The obstacles that presented themselves, the dangers with which we were threatened, the detentions and vexations which had actually to be endured, all rose in my mind as I gave way to the feeling of delight with which I at length saw the fulfilment of my dear husband's long-cherished wish. Nor was my satisfaction a little increased at the recollection that I had strenuously urged him to pursue the journey, even when his own ardour had somewhat abated and when I had to oppose my counsel to the advice and wishes of our companions'.

Lady Judith Montefiore , Travel Diary 1827



Solemn entrance of Sir Moses and Lady Montefiore to Jerusalem, 1839 (from *Sir Moses Montefiore*, by S. U. Nahon, p. 6). (An artist's impression) [See pp. 287-303]

"This day I began a new era. I fully intend to dedicate much more time to the welfare of the poor and to attend Synagogue as regularly as possible on Monday, Thursday and Saturday."

Sir Moses Montefiore, 24 October 1827



"I am no great man . . . the little good I have accomplished or rather that I intended to accomplish, I am indebted for it to my never-to-be-forgotten wife, whose enthusiasm for everything that is noble and whose religiousness sustained me in my career."

Sir Moses Montefiore



2. The Montefiores on the terrace of their Ramsgate villa, East Cliff Lodge (from *Sir Moses Montefiore*, by Dr. S. U. Nahon, published by the Bureau for Jewish Communities and Organizations of the Jewish Agency, Jerusalem, 1965, p. 23). (An artist's impression) [See pp. 287-303]

*And Judith, thou of women blessed supreme
Thy Lord's right hand, with good thine actions teem;
Deep in thy heart doth every virtue bide,
More than the river's drops that swell the tide;
Earth's joys though spur nest - shadows of a day
Thou garner'st seeds no waves can wash away.*

Moses Angel, Jewish Chronicle 1849



“Only six European females are said to have visited Palestine in the course of a century...deeply impressed with a feeling of awe and respect, standing as I did, in the sepulcher of a mother in Israel.” ibid





“Let those females, therefore, who are the most solicitous about their Beauty, and the most eager to produce a favourable impression, cultivate the *moral, religious, and intellectual attributes*, and in this advice consists the recipe for the finest cosmetic in the world.”

The Jewish Manual, by A Lady 1846